

Fruits Basket™

TOKYOPOP

The #1 selling
shojo manga
in America!



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Natsuki Takaya

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Manga
Romance/Comedy
US \$9.99
CAN \$12.50
UK £6.99

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The world's number one shojo manga continues, as Tohru and the Sohmas spend time at the Sohma's summerhouse. Alas, it's not all fun in the sun on this little trip. Akito pays a surprise visit, causing a commotion for the rest of the family. Shigure takes a stroll down memory lane with an old friend, remembering the days when Hatori wasn't so aloof. Meanwhile, Tohru begins to wonder: What must life be like for the loved ones of a cursed member of the Sohma family? Can life with this family truly be happy while bearing such a burden?



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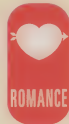


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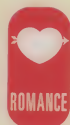


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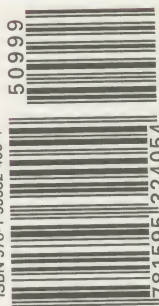


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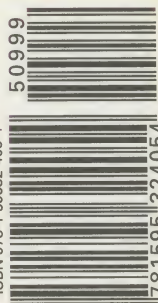


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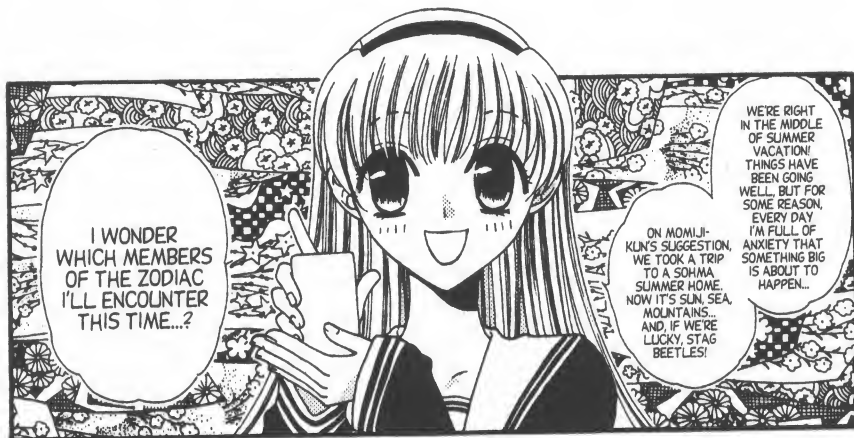
Volume 10



Natsuki Takaya

STORY SO FAR...

Hello, I'm Tohru Honda and I have come to know a terrible secret. After the death of my mother, I was living by myself in a tent, when the Sohma family took me in. I soon learned that the Sohma family lives with a curse! Each family member is possessed by the vengeful spirit of an animal from the Chinese Zodiac. Whenever one of them becomes weak or is hugged by a member of the opposite sex, they change into their Zodiac animal!



Fruits Basket™

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Fans Basket	199

STORY SO FAR...

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Fruits Basket Characters

Mabudachi Trio

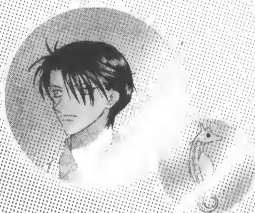


Shigure Sohma, the Dog

Enigmatic, mischievous and a little perverted. A popular novelist.

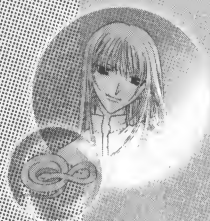
Hatori Sohma, the Dragon

Family doctor to the Sohmas. Only thing he can't cure is his broken heart.



Ayame Sohma, the Snake

Yuki's older brother. A proud and playful drama queen...er, king. Runs a costume shop.



Saki Hanajima

"Hana-chan." Can sense people's "waves." Goth demeanor scares her classmates.

Arisa Uotani

"Uo-chan." A tough-talking "Yankee" who looks out for her friends.



Tohru's Best Friends



Tohru Honda

The ever-optimistic hero of our story. An orphan, she now lives in Shigure's house, along with Yuki and Kyo, and is the only person outside of the family who knows the Sohma family's curse.

Yuki Sohma, the Rat

Soft-spoken. Self-esteem issues. At school he's called "Prince Yuki."

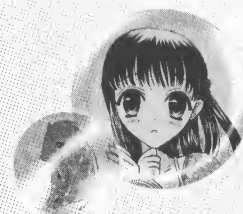


Kyo Sohma, the Cat

The Cat who was left out of the Zodiac. Hates Yuki, leeks and miso. But mostly Yuki.

Kagura Sohma, the Boar

Bashful, yet headstrong. Determined to marry Kyo, even if it kills him.



Fruits Basket Characters

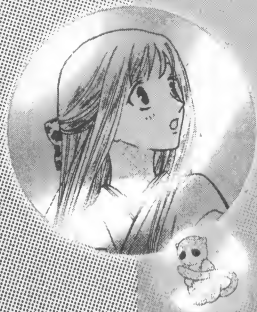
Hiro Sohma, the Ram (or sheep)

This caustic tyke is skilled at throwing verbal barbs, but he has a soft spot for Kisa.



Ritsu Sohma, the Monkey

This shy kimono-wearing member of the Sohma family is gorgeous. But this "she" is really a he!! Crossdressing calms his nerves.



Akito Sohma

The head of the Sohma clan. A dark figure of many secrets. Treated with fear and reverence.



Momiji Sohma, the Rabbit

Half-German. He's older than he looks. Mother rejected him because of the Sohma curse.



Hatsuharu Sohma, the Ox

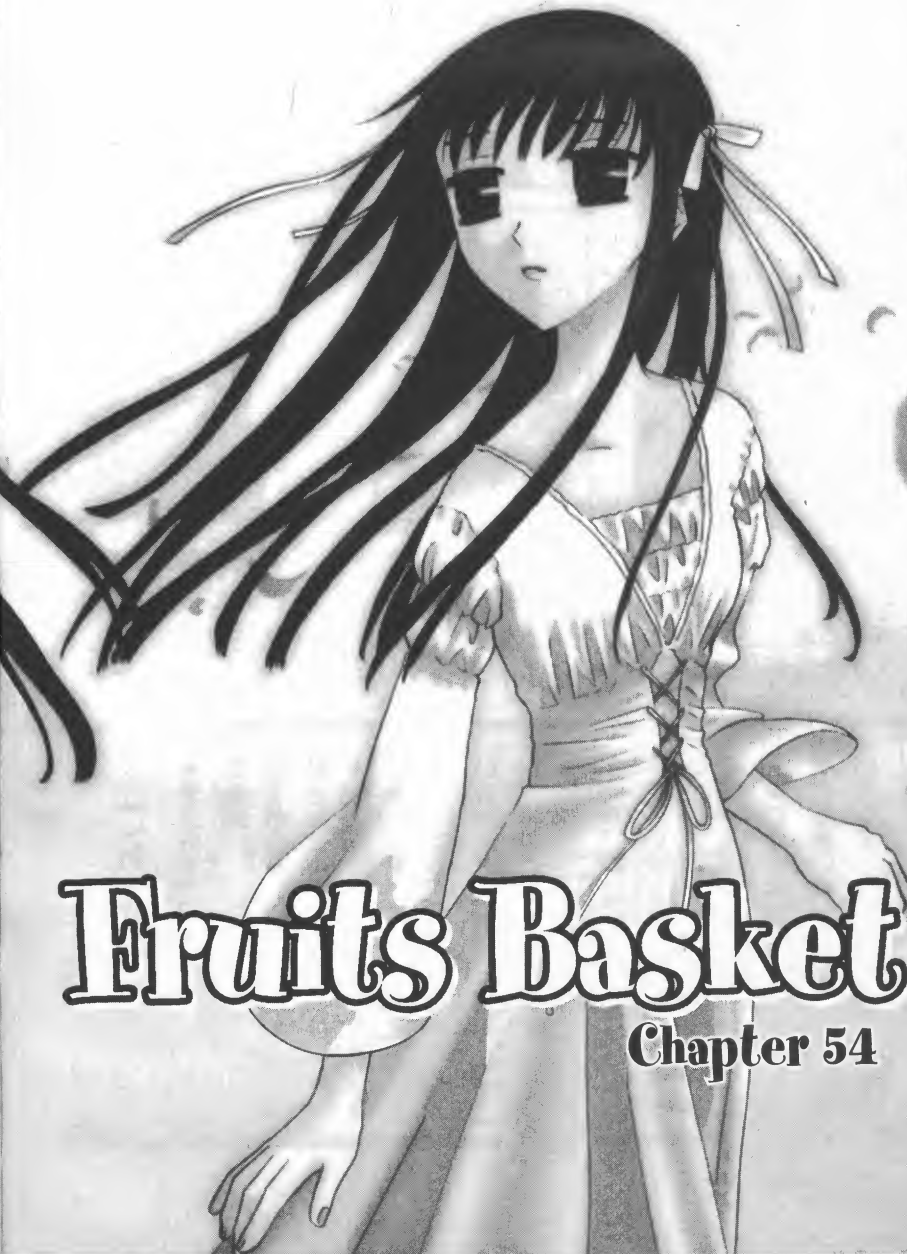
The nicest of guys, except when he goes "Black." Then you'd better watch out.



Kisa Sohma, the Tiger

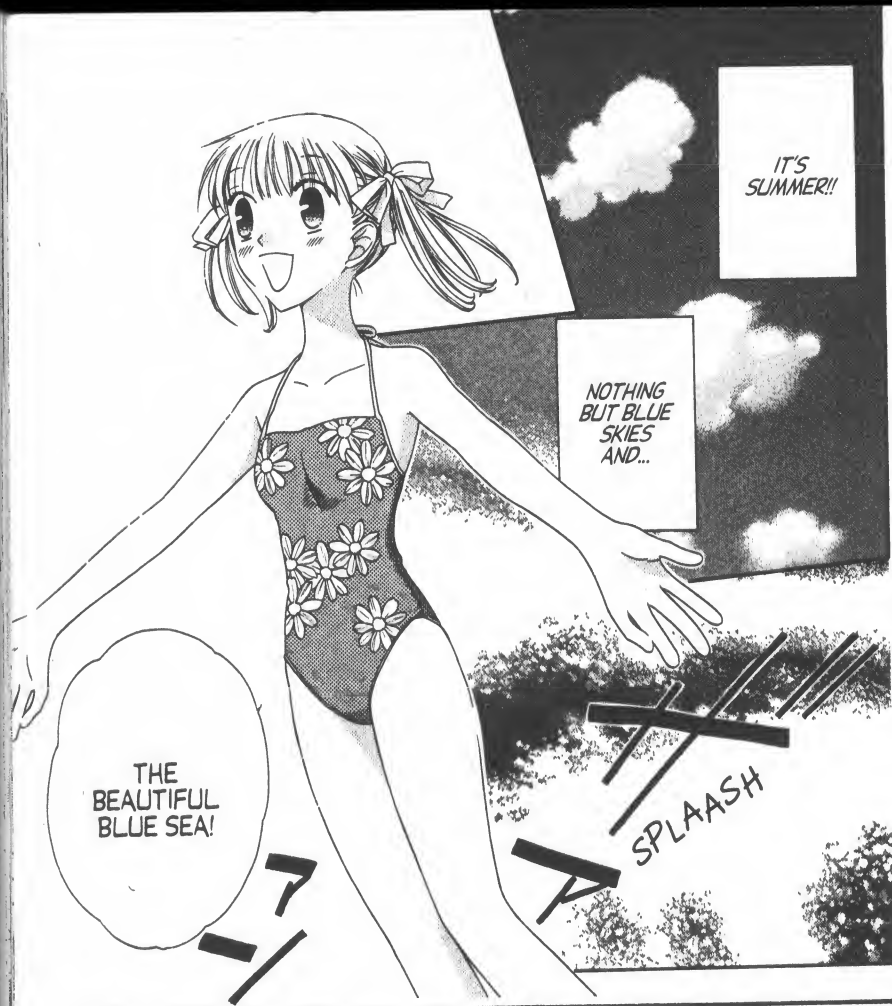
Kisa became shy and self-conscious due to constant teasing by her classmates. Yuki, who has similar insecurities, feels particularly close to Kisa.





Fruits Basket

Chapter 54



BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 1

Recently, I received some fan letters written on homemade rabbit stationery--it was so precious, I was embarrassed! (laugh)
 When I get hand-knit scarves and hats, I get embarrassed, too. It's like, "Ah, this feels like Toki-Memo*...!" (Really?)
 Thank you. I treasure them.

*Tokimeki Memorial: A popular series of dating sim games.

Filler Sketch



I couldn't decide until the very last minute whether to give her a bikini or a one-piece... (Either would be fine...)

IF IT'S EVEN POSSIBLE, THIS PLACE IS EVEN MORE WONDERFUL THAN THE LAST SUMMER HOME.

Uwaahh!

AND THE ROOMS INSIDE ARE ENORMOUS AND OH SO BEAUTIFUL!

Uwaahh!

My, my, what a charming girl. You must be tired. Please, make yourself comfortable.

Aaahh... ah...

AND THIS HOUSE EVEN HAS MAIDS!

TOHRU, LOOK!

YOU CAN SEE THE HOUSE FROM HERE!

AH... YOU'RE RIGHT!

WE ARRIVED LAST NIGHT.

IT WAS QUITE LATE.



LET'S GO IN! LET'S GO IN!

YES!

splash!

I CAME ON A SUMMER VACATION WITH EVERYONE!

COLD, ISN'T IT?!



YOU'RE NOT GOING IN, KYO?

NO WAY.

THEY'RE SO CHEERFUL...

Fruits Basket 10
Part 1:

Hajimemashite and konnichiwa! Takaya, here! Furuba has made it to Volume 10 at last! Uwaaaaahh! Ten volumes... Clap clap! Volume 10 features Kisa. Recently, she has become remarkably cheerful. It's not that her situation has really changed... yet. But as long as there are people who understand her, she won't give up on walking forward.

Well now, volume ten is "Summer Vacation in a Summer Home." Please enjoy.







"DON'T MISUNDER-
STAND."



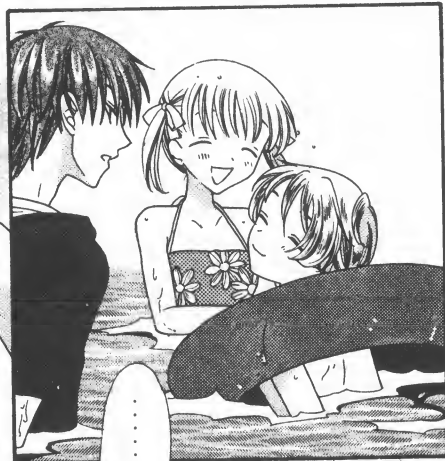
SO KYO
WENT INTO
THE WATER
WITH THEM
AFTER ALL...

Tohru!
I wanna
turn, I
wanna
turn!

You want
some
of this,
Squirt?

Sploosh

playing
& life-
guards



EH
?!

WH-WHAT
ARE YOU
LAUGHING
ABOUT?!

AH Ha
Ha Ha!



Going
"wheel"
through the
waves.

THIS IS
SO FUN!



TEACH HER
HOW TO
BREATHE!



YOU
WANT
FUN? I'LL
GIVE YOU
FUN!

spin

WAAAAHHH!



OH!

I-I'M SORRY,
KYO-KUN.
Y-YOU'RE IN
THE WATER...
WITH YOUR
CLOTHES ON...!

A-ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT?!



IS ALL THE
SUN GETTING
TO YOU?

YOU DON'T
LOOK SO
GOOD.



YUKI-
KUUN!

COME JOIN US,
YUKI, HARU!

AH... OKAY!



....

OR HAVE YOUR
FEELINGS MADE
YOU DIZZY?



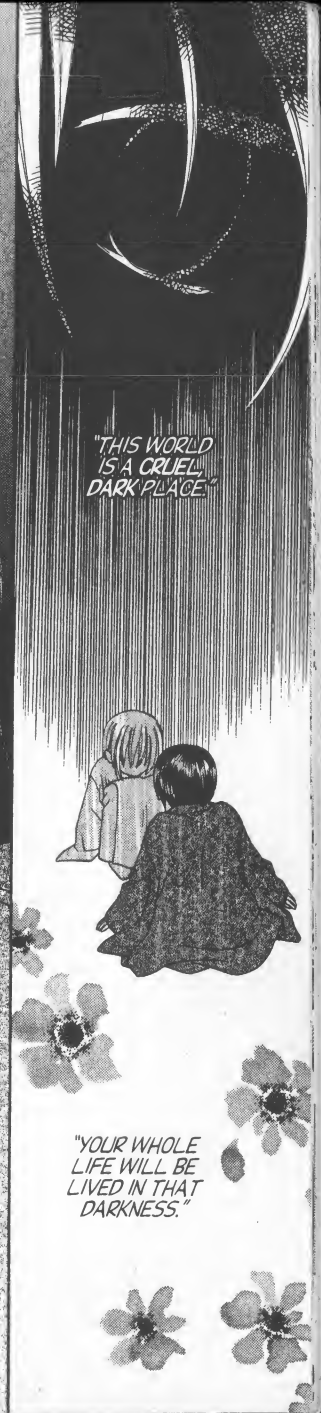
"DON'T GET
ANY IDEAS,
OR THINK..."

"...I WILL
BE SAVED
SOMEDAY."



"HOPE,
POSSIBILITY...
THOSE
CONCEPTS
DON'T APPLY
TO YOU."

"YOUR FATE
IS TO STAY ON
THAT PITCH
DARK ROAD
UNTIL YOU DIE."



"THIS WORLD
IS A CRUEL,
DARK PLACE."

"YOUR WHOLE
LIFE WILL BE
LIVED IN THAT
DARKNESS."

SPLISH

SPLISH

YOU TRYING TO KILL ME?!

STOP IT, YOU IDIOT! LET GO!

I CHALLENGE YOU TO A CONTEST.

SPLASH



EH?!

AH! UM! TH-THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!

IT'S THANKS TO YOU ALL BUYING IT FOR ME...

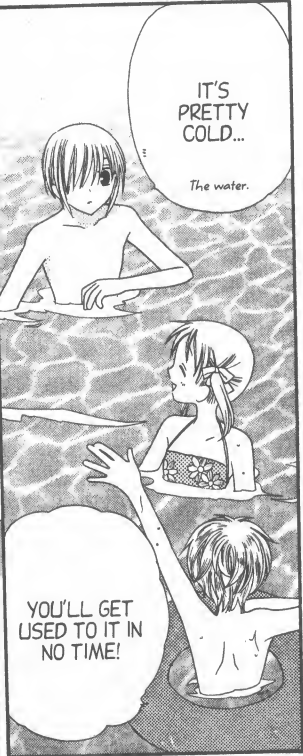
YOU LOOK GOOD IN THAT SWIMSUIT.

YOU'RE CUTE.

Tohru is always cute.

IT'S PRETTY COLD...

The water.



YOU'LL GET USED TO IT IN NO TIME!



...I'M FINE.

I JUST GOT DISTRACTED.

I SHOULDN'T CAUSE HONDA-SAN...

...TO WORRY UNNECESSARILY ...

IT'S A BAD HABIT...



HUH?

GETTING OUT ALREADY?

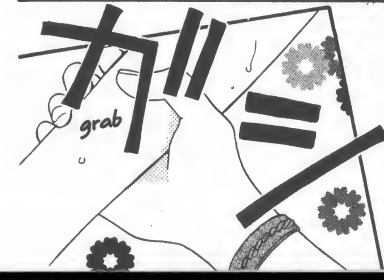
I DIDN'T WANT TO GO IN THE FIRST PLACE!



THAT'S A GOOD ATTITUDE.

THANKS...

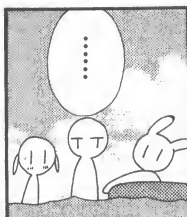
splooosh
splooosh



grab



MAYBE
I WILL
JOIN...



LIKE HELL
I WILL! I'M
NOT THAT
SIMPLE!



IF YOU
JOIN, KYO
WILL GET
INTO IT.

WANT TO
COMPETE
WITH US?

splash

splash

「グ」

SEE, YUKI?
WHAD I
TELL YA?

I'M GONNA
KICK YOUR
ASSES!

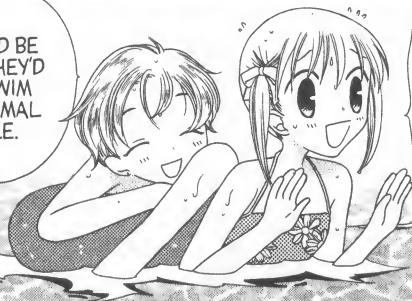
THERE'S
NO WAY
I'M GONNA
LOSE!!

Somehow...



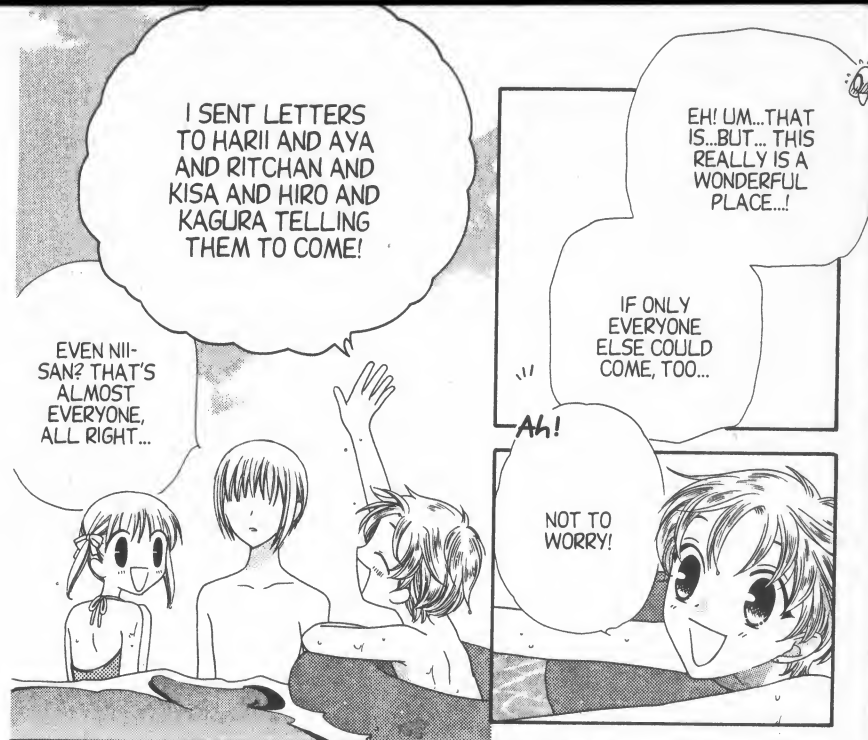
IT WOULD BE
NICE IF THEY'D
JUST SWIM
LIKE NORMAL
PEOPLE.

THEY'RE SO
CHILDISH.



PLEASE
DON'T PUSH
YOURSELVES
TO HARD!

Ah...
uh...
um...



I SENT LETTERS
TO HARI AND AYA
AND RITCHAN AND
KISA AND HIRO AND
KAGURA TELLING
THEM TO COME!

EVEN NII-
SAN? THAT'S
ALMOST
EVERYONE,
ALL RIGHT...

EH! UM...THAT
IS...BUT... THIS
REALLY IS A
WONDERFUL
PLACE...!

IF ONLY
EVERYONE
ELSE COULD
COME, TOO...

Ah!

NOT TO
WORRY!



YUKI.



THAT'S
AMAZING!

I HOPE
EVERYONE
COMES!

OOOH...
I CAN'T
WAIT!



NOBODY SHOULD ACT THAT CARE-FREE. DOES HE NEED SOME MEDICATION? DOES HE--

HIRO-CHAN!

I...WANT TO GO.

crumple



I'LL GO TALK...

...TO MY MOM!

STUPID WOMAN! ALWAYS STEALING OUR ALONE TIME!



WHY WOULD I WANT TO GO ON VACATION WITH THOSE GUYS?

AND WHAT IS HE ACTING SO GIDDY ABOUT? ISN'T HE IN HIGH SCHOOL, NOW?

I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD BE OFFENDED OR FEEL SORRY FOR HIM.

And what's with the rabbit stationery? Does he think we're in kindergarten?



STUPID
SUMMER...
I HATE IT!

VERY
FUNNY...

IT'S
UNBEARABLY
HOT AND MAKES
EVERYONE
ACT SO DAMN
FOOLISH.

I DON'T FEEL
WELL...
MY HEAD
HURTS.

...SEEING AS
HOW SICK
I'M FEELING
ALREADY.



HE LIVES
FOR ME, SO
HE SHOULD
SERVE ME.

...WHAT DO
I CARE? WHY
SHOULD I HAVE
TO WORRY ABOUT
SUCH THINGS?

HATORI HAS SO
MANY THINGS
ON HIS PLATE,
I FEEL BAD
CALLING HIM
SO OFTEN...

HATORI...

CALL
HATORI
FOR ME.



I'LL BE HEADING
OVER THERE
MYSELF, SOON.

I GUESS
I WON'T BE
SEEING YOU
FOR AWHILE.

TRY NOT TO
MAKE YOURSELF
SICK, AKITO-SAN.



PERHAPS...

...I SHALL HAVE
TO TEACH THEM
A LESSON.



IS
SOMETHING
WRONG?

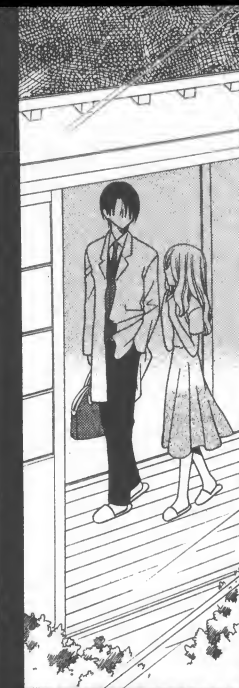
WHAT
ARE YOU
SMILING
ABOUT?

...WHAT?

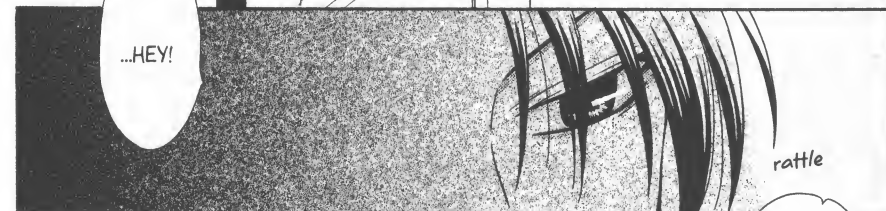
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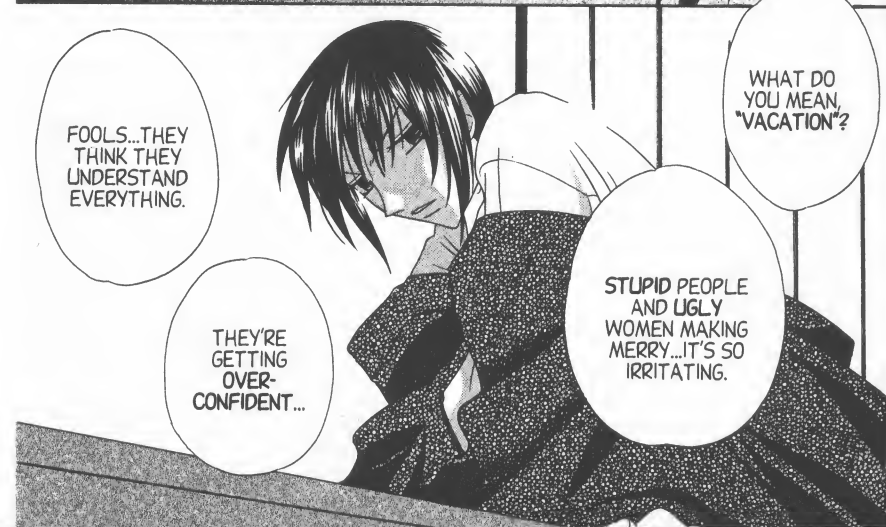
...HEY!



EVEN SO,
I SHOULD
THINK--



rattle

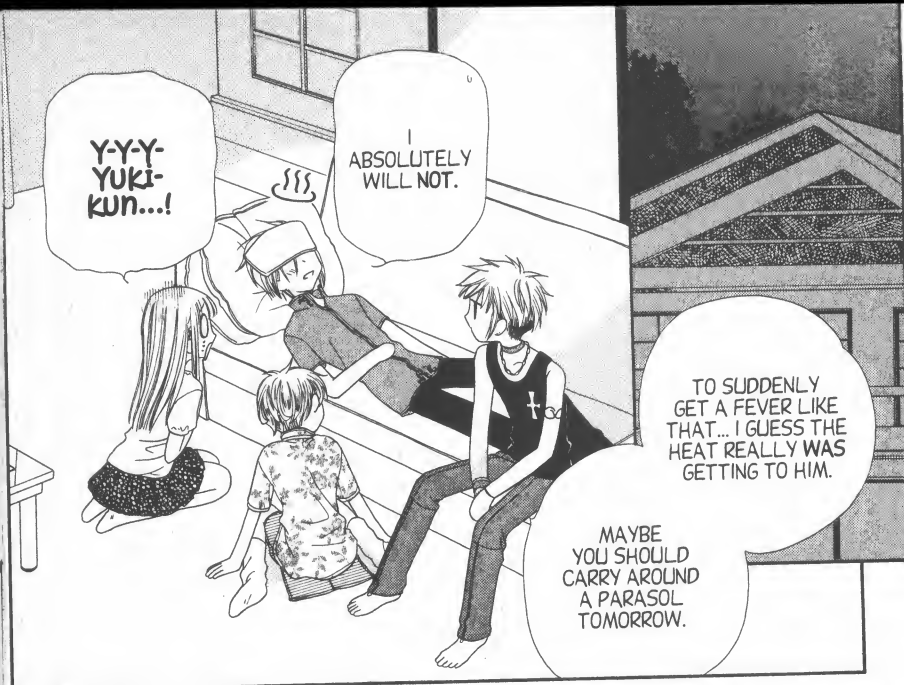


FOOLS...THEY
THINK THEY
UNDERSTAND
EVERYTHING.

THEY'RE
GETTING
OVER-
CONFIDENT...

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN,
"VACATION"?

STUPID PEOPLE
AND UGLY
WOMEN MAKING
MERRY...IT'S SO
IRRITATING.



Y-Y-Y-YUKI-KUN...!

I ABSOLUTELY WILL NOT.

TO SUDDENLY GET A FEVER LIKE THAT... I GUESS THE HEAT REALLY WAS GETTING TO HIM.

MAYBE YOU SHOULD CARRY AROUND A PARASOL TOMORROW.



Shut up! I'm going to bed!! Nobody wake me up!!

AND THE SHOCK CAUSED KYO TO GO TO BED EARLY OUT OF SPITE.

MAYBE HE JUST OVER-EXERTED HIMSELF, TOO.

Aaaahhh...



Aaaahhh!

H-H-HANG IN THERE! TO THINK THAT WHILE YOU WERE SUFFERING SO, I WAS JUST STANDING THERE WATCHING, HAVING FUN--!!

IT'S JUST A SLIGHT FEVER. DON'T WORRY... CALM DOWN.



YOU WERE FIRST PLACE IN THE CONTEST!

BUT THAT WAS AMAZING, YUKI!!



...YOU SHOULD COME TO THE SUMMER HOME WITH ME...?

RATHER, I WAS THINKING THAT PERHAPS...

PROBLEM?

DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH WHAT I SAY?

IF YOU WANT TO "TEACH THEM A LESSON," THAT IS.

MY DEAR AKITO-SAN, I WOULD NEVER CONSIDER QUESTIONING YOUR MOTIVES.



I WONDER...

I WONDER WHAT
KIND OF TREE A
KUNUGI IS...

THEY SAY
THAT KUNUGI
TREES ARE
GOOD FOR
THAT!

Kyo
told
me!

I SEE.
KUNUGI,
IS IT...?

WE HAVE TO
PUT SUGAR
WATER ON THE
TREES AND
CATCH STAG
BEETLES!



Oh
yeah!

Yeah,
on the
ground.

I never really
notice them
until they're
all on the
ground.

Really?
Come to think
of it, I don't
think I have
either...

Aah!
I'VE NEVER
SEEN ACORNS
IN A TREE
BEFORE!

I SEE,
ACORNS...

YOU KNOW,
I BET IT'S A
TREE WITH
ACORNS!



okay!

I'll be right
back.

TAKE
CARE OF YUKI,
OKAY?

I'LL GO
GET A
BOOK!



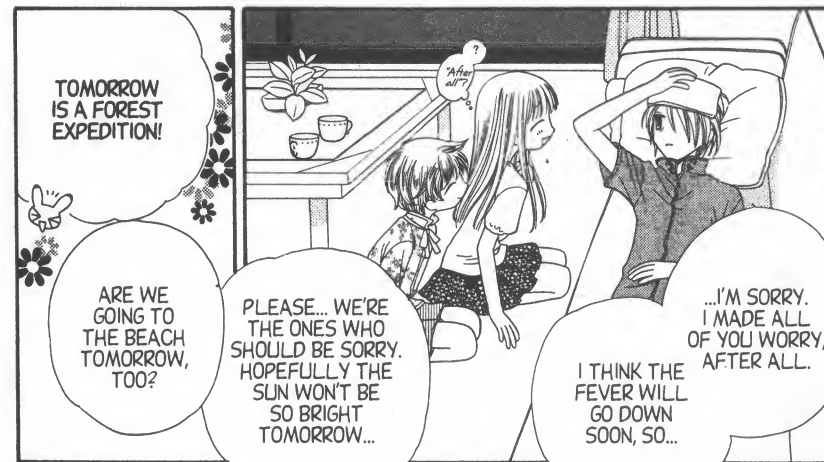
GO!
NOW!!

I THOUGHT
YOU MIGHT
GET LONELY.

YUKI...IS
IT OKAY IF
I GO TAKE A
BATH?

?

GO AHEAD.
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
ASK ME.



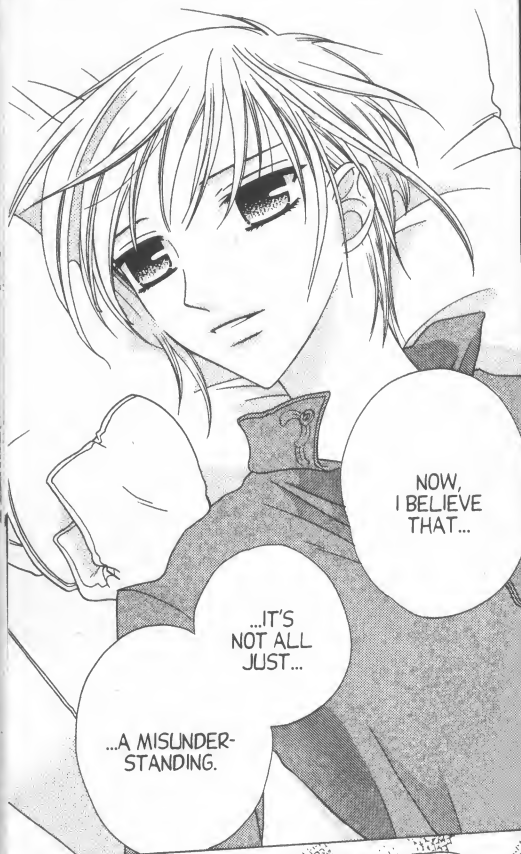
TOMORROW
IS A FOREST
EXPEDITION!

ARE WE
GOING TO
THE BEACH
TOMORROW,
TOO?

PLEASE... WE'RE
THE ONES WHO
SHOULD BE SORRY.
HOPEFULLY THE
SUN WON'T BE
SO BRIGHT
TOMORROW...

I THINK THE
FEVER WILL
GO DOWN
SOON, SO...

...I'M SORRY.
I MADE ALL
OF YOU WORRY,
AFTER ALL.



NOW,
I CAN THINK
THAT...

NOW,
I BELIEVE
THAT...

...IT'S
NOT ALL
JUST...

...A MISUNDER-
STANDING.



WHEN
THE TIME
COMES, IF
YOU WOULD
LISTEN...

...I'D BE
HAPPY.

I HAVE TO
OPEN...THAT
TIGHTLY
CLOSED LID.



pitter
patter
pitter
pitter
patter

tug
tug

EH...?

"DON'T
MISUNDERSTAND."

...THERE'S
SOMETHING
I SHOULD
TELL YOU
SOMEDAY.

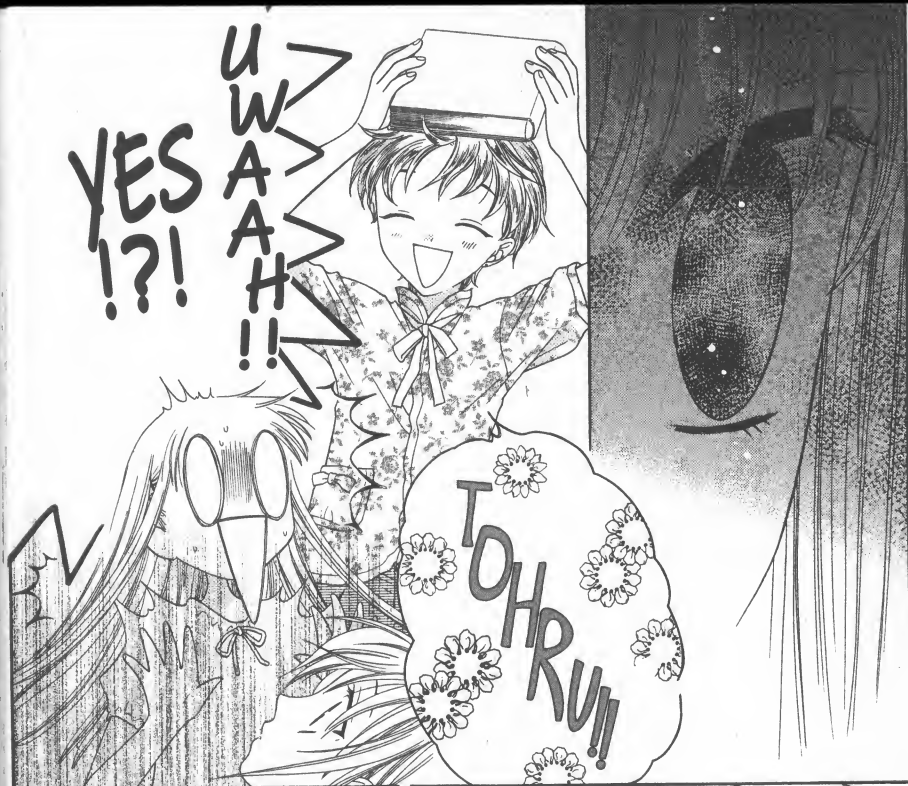
THERE'S
SOMETHING...

...I WANT
TO TELL
YOU.

IT'S
NOTHING...

...LIKE
THAT.

I THINK...



"I HAVE TO
OPEN THAT
TIGHTLY
CLOSED LID."

OPEN...

I STILL
DON'T
KNOW...

...WHAT
HE'S TRYING
TO SAY...

...THE
LID...?

BUT IT'S
CERTAIN THAT
SOMETHING
INSIDE YUKI-KUN
IS BEGINNING
TO MOVE.

I WONDER
...

NO...I JUST
GOT LOST IN
THOUGHT. I'M
ALL RIGHT.

N-NO, I-IT'S
ALL RIGHT.
I'M THE
ONE THAT'S
SORRY.

YOU STARTLED
ME, TOHRU.
WHAT'S WRONG?
DID I SCARE YOU
THAT MUCH?

I'm sorry.

I'M SORRY
TO YOU TOO,
YUKI-KUN.

For yelling so loudly...

IS SOME-
THING
WRONG?

You--



Chapter 55



MAYBE THE
SUMMER
HEAT IS
MAKING ME
DIZZY, TOO.

I HOPE NOT...

THIS SUMMER
VACATION HAS
ONLY JUST
BEGIN.



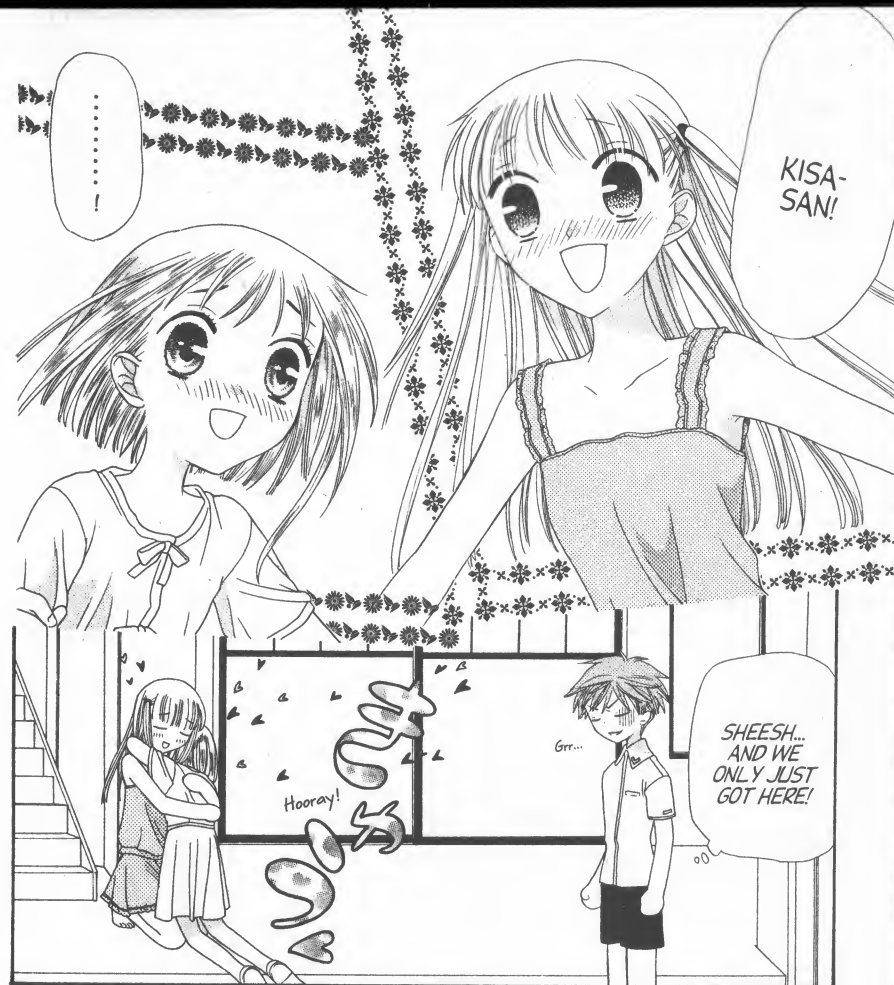
So, you guys
find out how
to catch these
bugs yet?

EH?!

It's not
that
easy!

Fruits Basket 10
Part 2:

Now that Furuba has made it to volume 10, there aren't that many characters left to be introduced. I don't know if I think, "Finally!" or, "Already?" but, when I look back, I can't help but feel as if there are a lot of characters. And yet, I still find myself thinking that there aren't enough... I think I'll start using this space to talk about the characters—give you all some of the worthless trivia that doesn't always come up in the stories themselves. Let's start with the famous Furuba "lost" side characters. So, until the next chapter... Let's go!



BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 2

I like drawing small children. But I guess Kisa and Hiro are at about that age where they'll be getting bigger soon. I look forward to drawing *that*, too!



HUH?

AH...
I SEE...

IN THAT
CASE, YUKI AND
I WILL SHARE
A ROOM.



WAIT...
WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

ONE
PROBLEM
SOLVED.

SOLVED!

"I HAVE TO OPEN
THAT TIGHTLY
CLOSED LID."

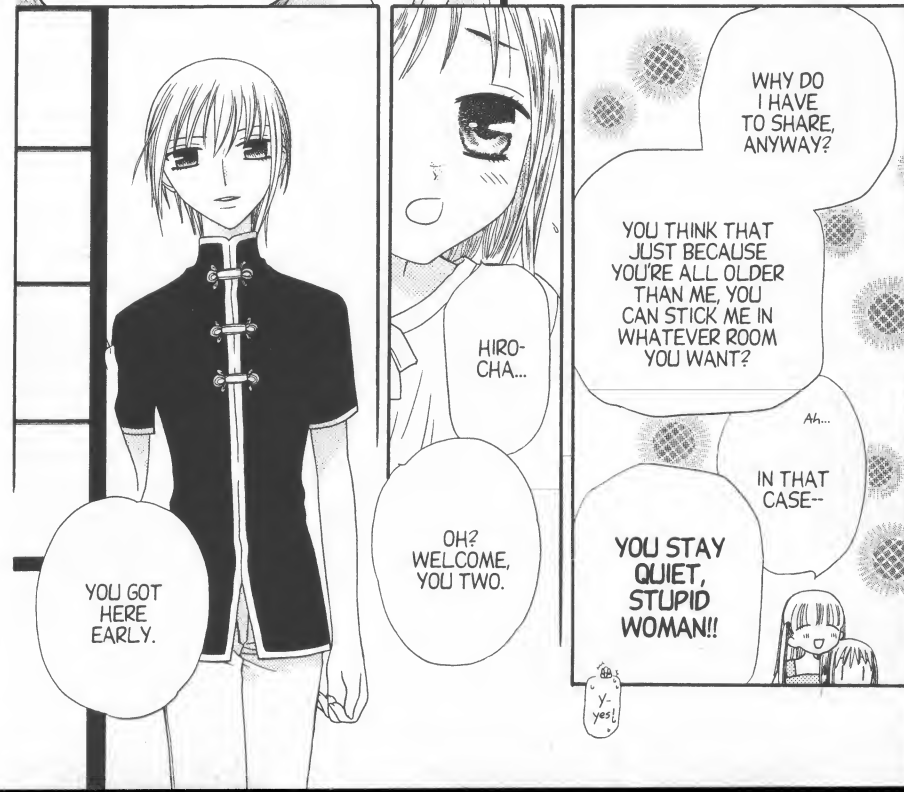


AH... YOU
WON'T SHARE
A ROOM UNLESS
IT'S WITH KISA...
HOW PRECOCIOUS.

WOULD YOU
STOP DECIDING
THOSE THINGS
ON YOUR OWN?

THERE'S
NO WAY I'M
SHARING A
ROOM WITH
ANYONE!

I NEVER
SAID THAT!



WHY DO
I HAVE
TO SHARE,
ANYWAY?

YOU THINK THAT
JUST BECAUSE
YOU'RE ALL OLDER
THAN ME, YOU
CAN STICK ME IN
WHATEVER ROOM
YOU WANT?

Ah...

IN THAT
CASE--

YOU STAY
QUIET,
STUPID
WOMAN!!

y-
yes!

HIRO-
CHA...

OH?
WELCOME,
YOU TWO.

YOU GOT
HERE
EARLY.



stomp
stomp

HE'S
YOUNG...



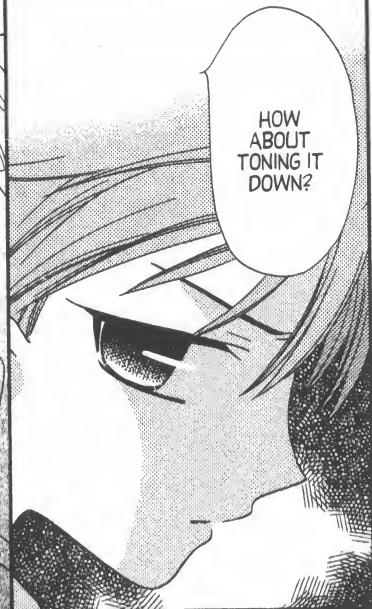
BUT YOU'RE
YOUNG, TOO...

A young old
man.

I KNOW...

I KNOW, BUT I
DON'T LIKE IT...

SEEING THEM
GET ALONG SO
WELL.



HOW
ABOUT
TONING IT
DOWN?



I DON'T
THINK IT'S
ANY OF YOUR
BUSINESS,
HARU-NII!



YES!
UNDERSTOOD!

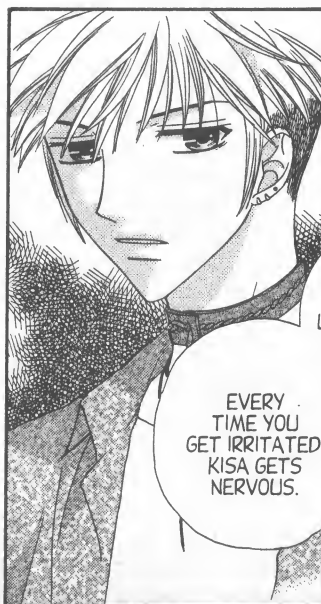
TOHRU, SHOW
HER TO HER
ROOM, 'KAY?

This way,
Kisa-san.

C'MON, HIRO!
OUR ROOM'S
THIS WAY!



Okay!
THE ROOMS
HAVE BEEN
DECIDED!!

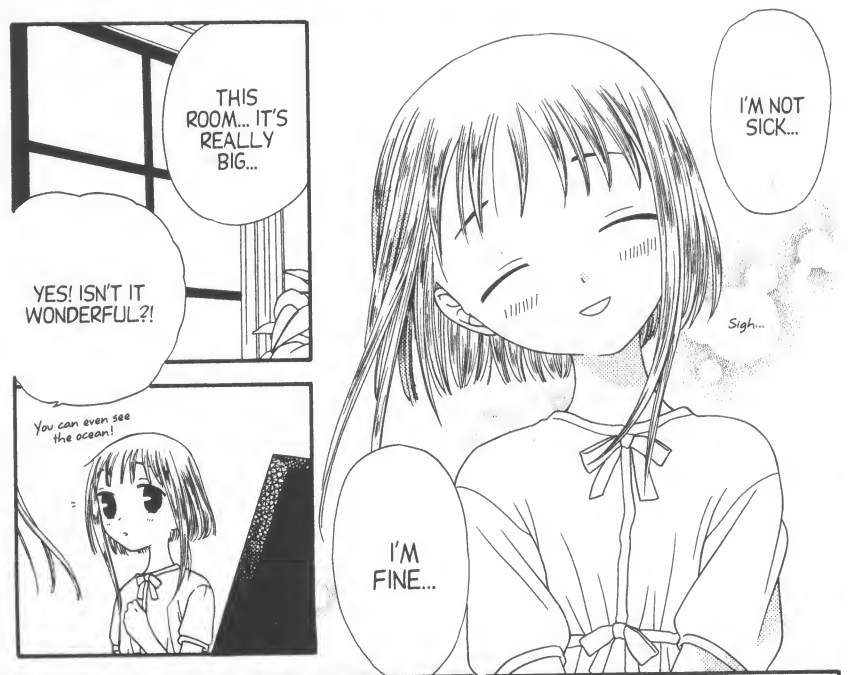


YOU'RE
LOSING POINTS
WITH THAT
ATTITUDE.

EVERY
TIME YOU
GET IRRITATED,
KISA GETS
NERVOUS.



HIRO.



THIS ROOM... IT'S REALLY BIG...

I'M NOT SICK...

Sigh...

YES! ISN'T IT WONDERFUL?!

You can even see the ocean!

I'M FINE...



YES, WE'RE ALWAYS...

IS... THAT YOUR MOTHER ...?

DO YOU ALWAYS TAKE THAT PICTURE WITH YOU...?

AH... YES! THAT'S HER!

...TO-GETHER.

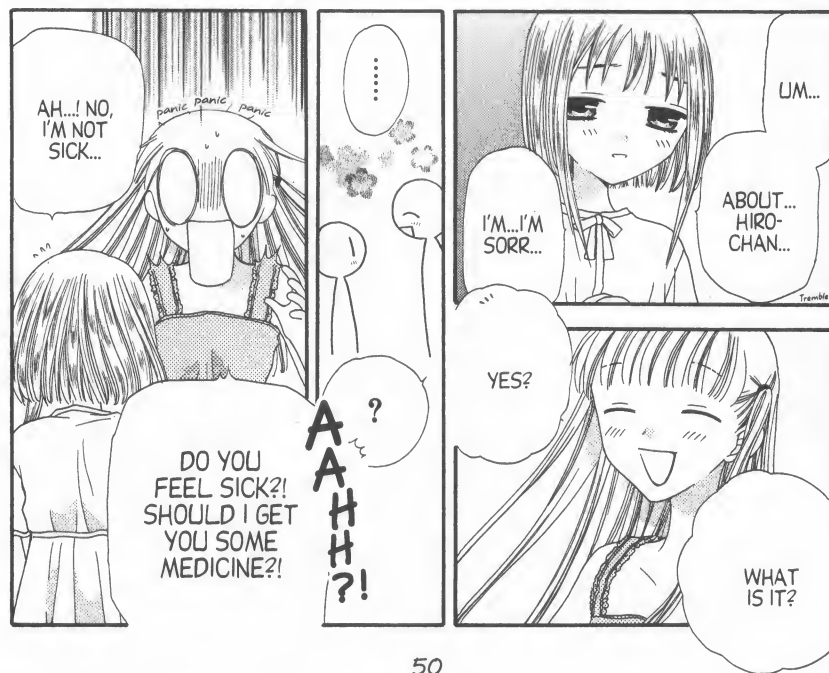


ARE YOU THIRSTY?

IT REALLY DOES IRRITATE ME.

I'LL LEAVE YOUR LUGGAGE HERE.

YOU MUST BE REALLY TIRED.



AH...! NO, I'M NOT SICK...

DO YOU FEEL SICK?! SHOULD I GET YOU SOME MEDICINE?!

AHHH?!

I'M...I'M SORR...

ABOUT... HIRO-CHAN...

YES?

WHAT IS IT?



I DON'T SEE ANY... STAG BEETLES...

IF YOU WANT STAG BEETLES SO MUCH, WHY NOT JUST BUY SOME...?

I FOUND ONE! A KUNUGI TREE!

IF WE LEAVE A SPECIAL SOMETHING ON THIS TREE, THE STAG BEETLES WILL COME TO LICK IT UP.

AND THAT CERTAIN THING IS--!

SUGAR WATER!

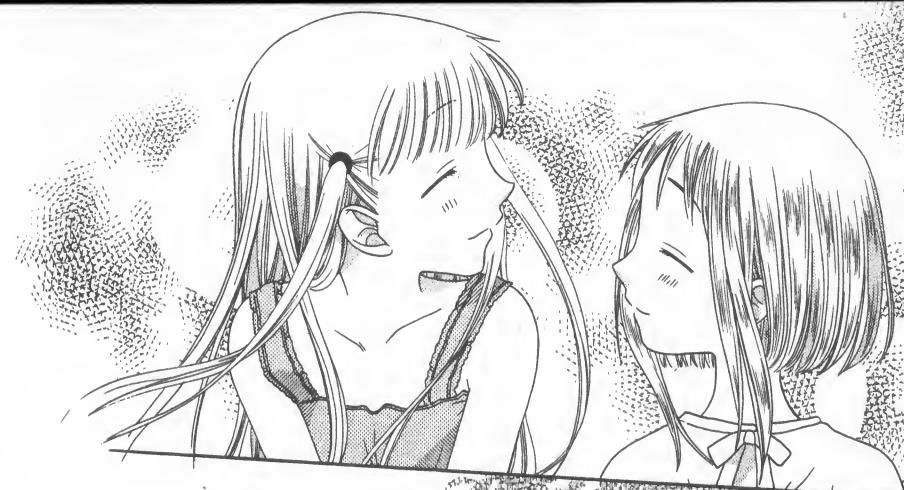


THE PHOTO WALLET I TOOK FROM HER...?

...HUH?

?

plp



THIS WAY!

WHAT ON EARTH ARE WE DOING IN THIS FOREST?

WE'RE MAKING PREPARATIONS TO CATCH STAG BEETLES!

COMING!



Yes!

AND THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE FUN?



YOU'VE LOST BOTH PARENTS, RIGHT? YOU MEAN, YOU DON'T HAVE ONE OF YOUR FATHER?

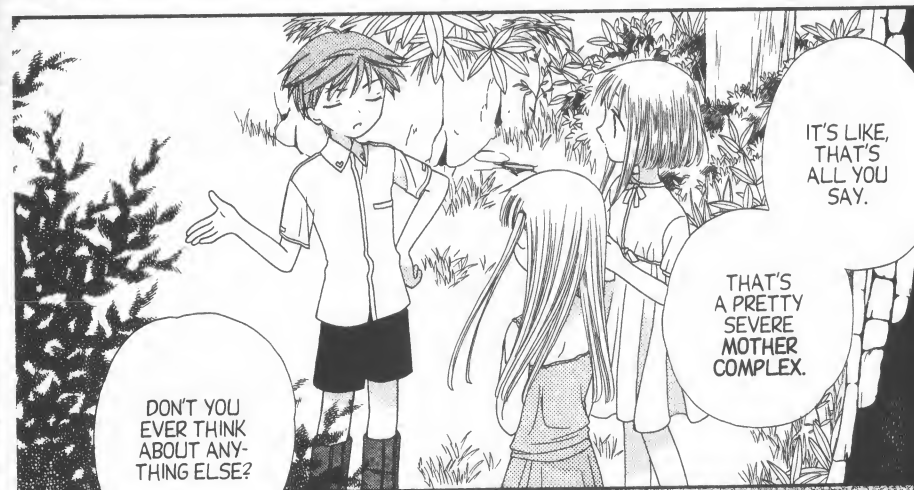
TH-TH-TH-
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

THANK GOODNESS. I WOULD HAVE LEFT HER BEHIND...

I MEAN...

WHENEVER YOU SAY ANYTHING, IT'S ALWAYS "MOM, MOM."

WHY DO YOU WALK AROUND WITH A PICTURE OF ONLY YOUR MOTHER?



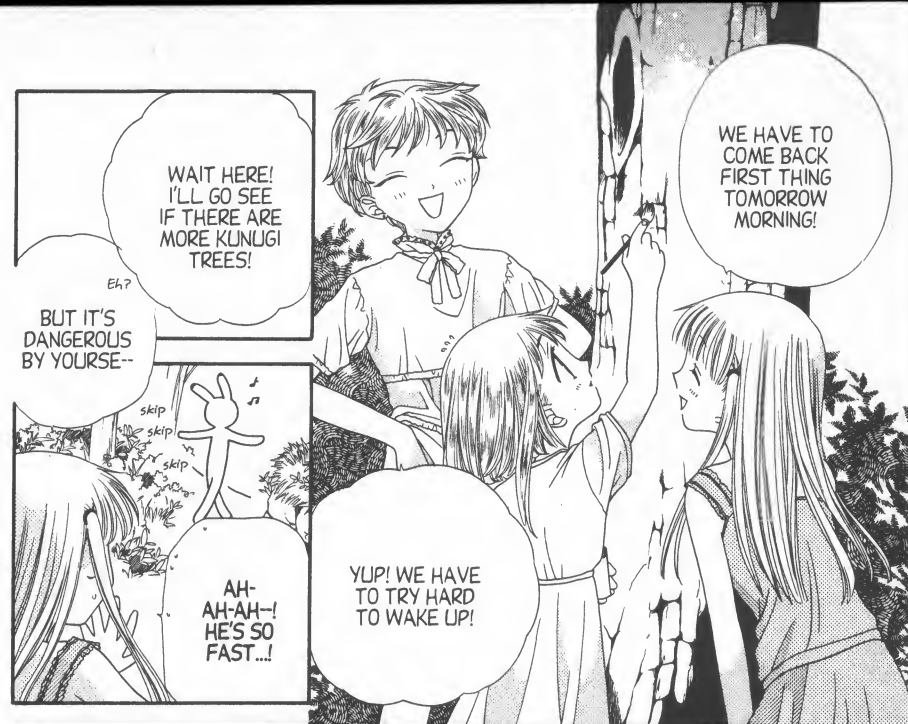
IT'S LIKE, THAT'S ALL YOU SAY.

THAT'S A PRETTY SEVERE MOTHER COMPLEX.

DON'T YOU EVER THINK ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE?



THAT IS...



WAIT HERE! I'LL GO SEE IF THERE ARE MORE KUNUGI TREES!

EH?

BUT IT'S DANGEROUS BY YOURSE--



AH-AH-AH!
HE'S SO FAST...!

YUP! WE HAVE TO TRY HARD TO WAKE UP!

WE HAVE TO COME BACK FIRST THING TOMORROW MORNING!



Recognizes that he means her.

EH?
UM... YES?

STUPID WOMAN.

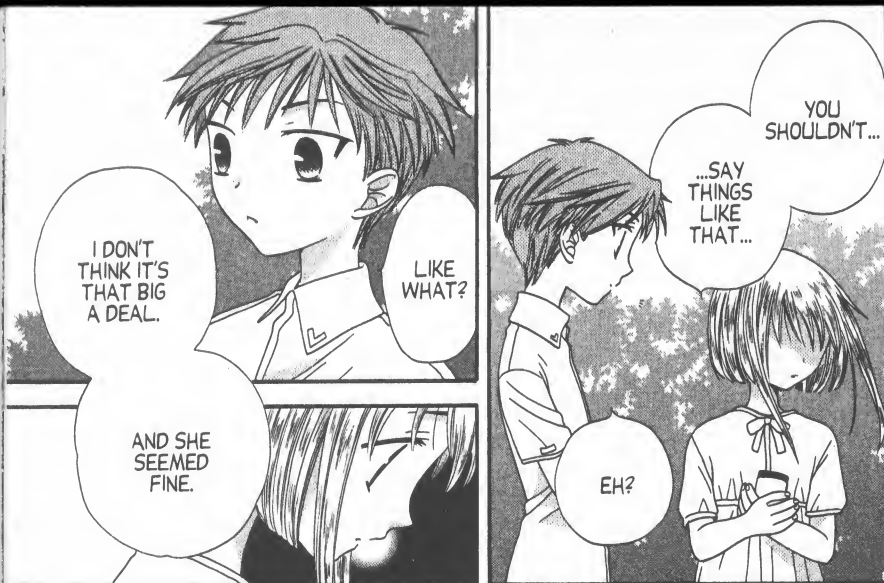


YOU DROPPED IT.

AAAAHHH!
MOM, HOW DID YOU GET OVER THERE?!

Teleportation ...?!

THIS... IS YOURS, ISN'T IT?



I DON'T
THINK IT'S
THAT BIG
A DEAL.

LIKE
WHAT?

AND SHE
SEEMED
FINE.

EH?

...SAY
THINGS
LIKE
THAT...

YOU
SHOULDN'T...



...SHE WAS
FINE...?

HOW DO
YOU KNOW...



YOU
SHOULDN'T...
SAY IT'S NOT
A BIG DEAL...

YOU'VE
NEVER...
FELT IT.

YOU DON'T
KNOW... WHAT
SHE'S HOLDING
ON TO IN THE
BOTTOM OF
HER HEART...



THAT...
IS...



WHAT ON
EARTH IS
WRONG
WITH HER?

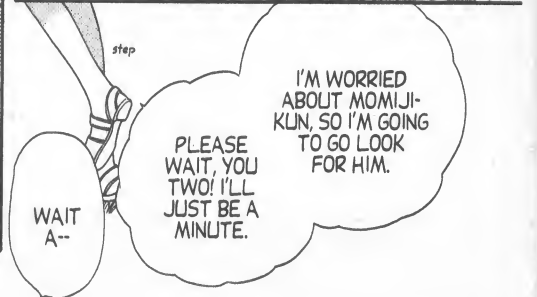
Momiji-
kun!

HIRO-
CHAN...



HUH?

...EH
HEH
HEH!



WAIT
A--

PLEASE
WAIT, YOU
TWO! I'LL
JUST BE A
MINUTE.

I'M WORRIED
ABOUT MOMIJI-
KUN, SO I'M GOING
TO GO LOOK
FOR HIM.



I THOUGHT
THAT COMING
HERE WOULD
MAKE KISA
HAPPY...
THAT'S WHY.

BUT THEN
I GO AND
MAKE HER
CRY. I'M SO
STUPID.



KISA-SAN?
WHAT'S THE
MATTER...?

I REALLY
AM LOSING
POINTS. I'M
A NO-GOOD,
HOPELESS
LITTLE BRAT,
BRAT, BRAT...



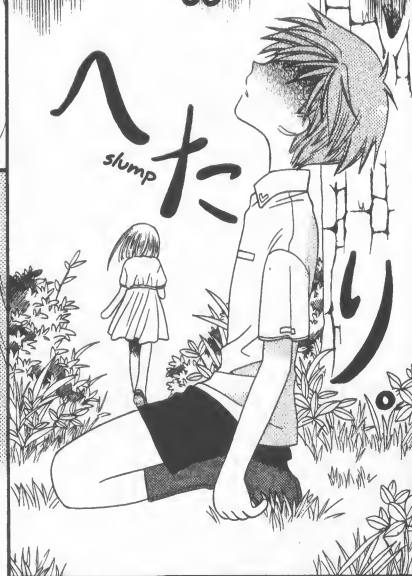
IT'S
NOTHING...

I HAVEN'T
GROWN UP
AT ALL.
WHenever
I'M FACED
WITH SOME-
THING I
DON'T LIKE...



...I TAKE
IT OUT
ON OTHER
PEOPLE.

WHY
DID
IT
HAVE
TO
TURN
OUT
THIS
WAY
?!



WH--
WHY DO
I HAVE TO...

I DON'T CARE
ABOUT HER
FEELINGS!

WHY SHOULD
I HAVE TO
WORRY ABOUT
THAT?!

WHY DID YOU
COME HERE,
HIRO-CHAN...?

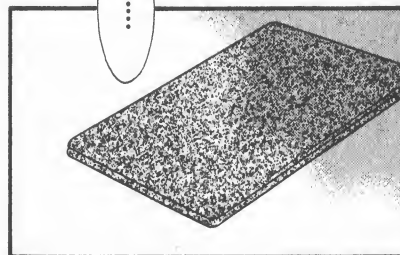
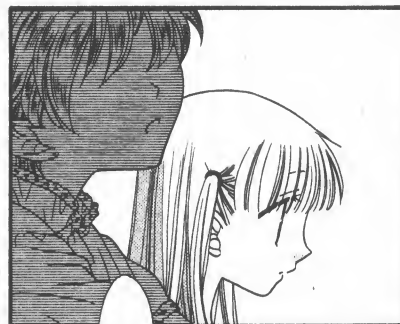


YOU
SHOULDN'T
...

...ASSUME
THINGS
LIKE
THAT...



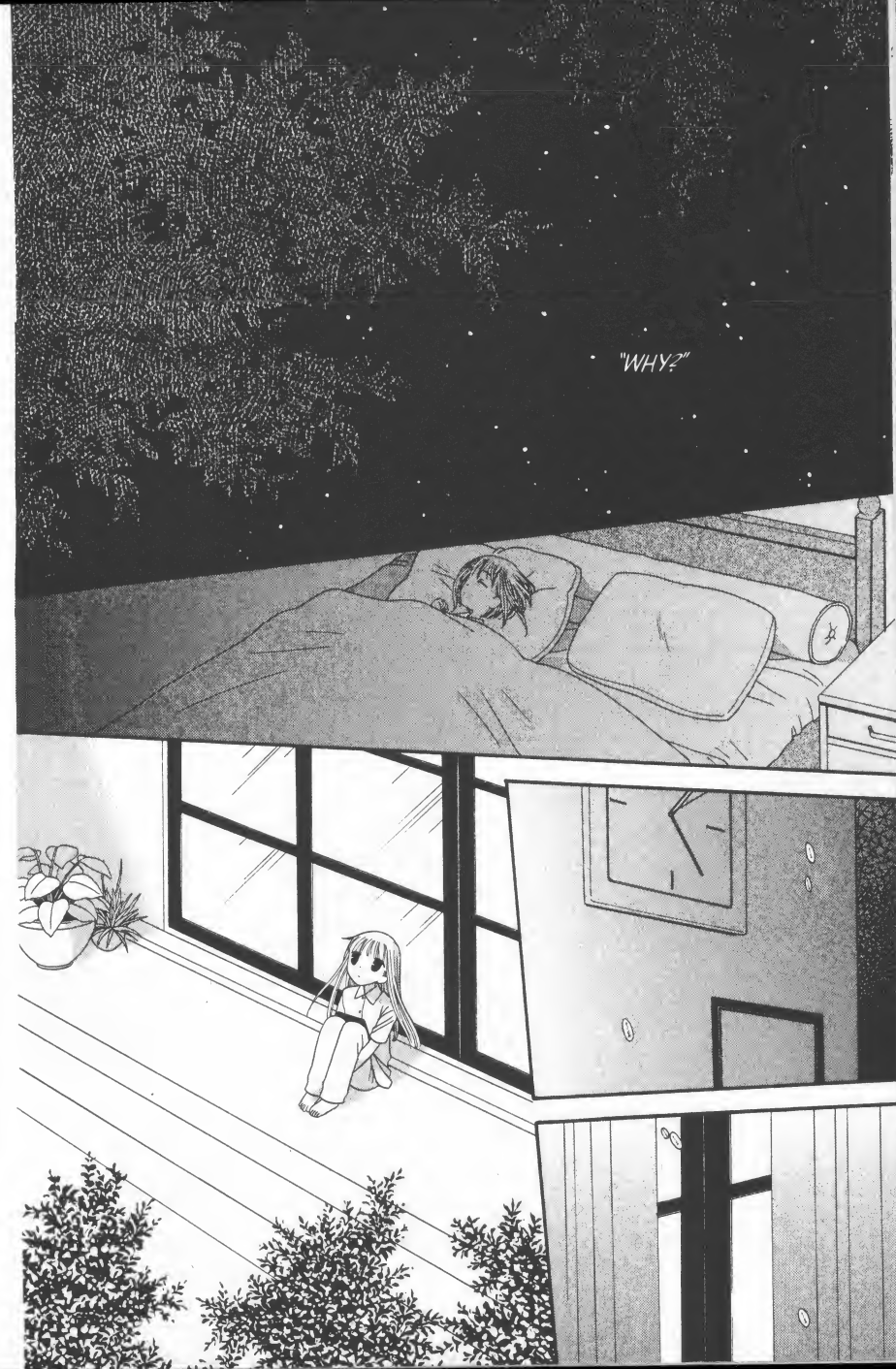
DID YOU
COME HERE
TO CAUSE
TROUBLE
FOR ONEE-
CHAN...?



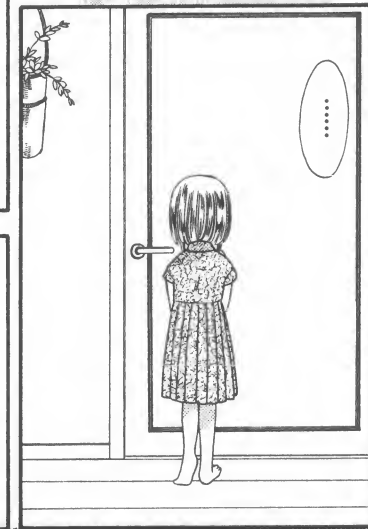
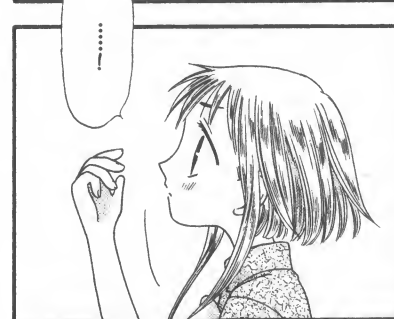
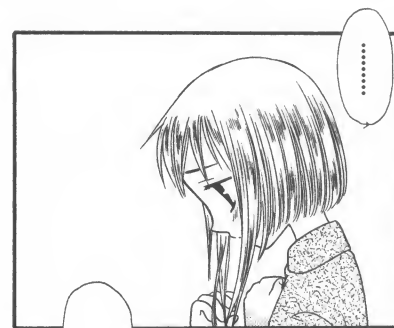
FEELINGS SHE HASN'T SHARED WITH ANYONE...

...IN THE BOTTOM OF HER HEART.









THERE ARE STAG BEETLES!

...A MAN WHO CAN...

...MAKE YOU HAPPY.

HIRO-SAAAAN!

Have you two made up?

Yes...

SOMEHOW, THAT WOMAN SEEMS EVEN MORE CHEERFUL THAN USUAL THIS MORNING...

WAS I JUST THINKING TOO HARD YESTERDAY?

No, wait!

That's great!

Yes...!

IT MIGHT BE THAT HER NATURAL STUPIDITY MEANS THAT HER HEART IS EXTREMELY DEEP...

I shouldn't assume...

THEY'RE SO COOL....

I KNOW! AREN'T THEY?

...ME TOO.

I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE...

...SORRY.

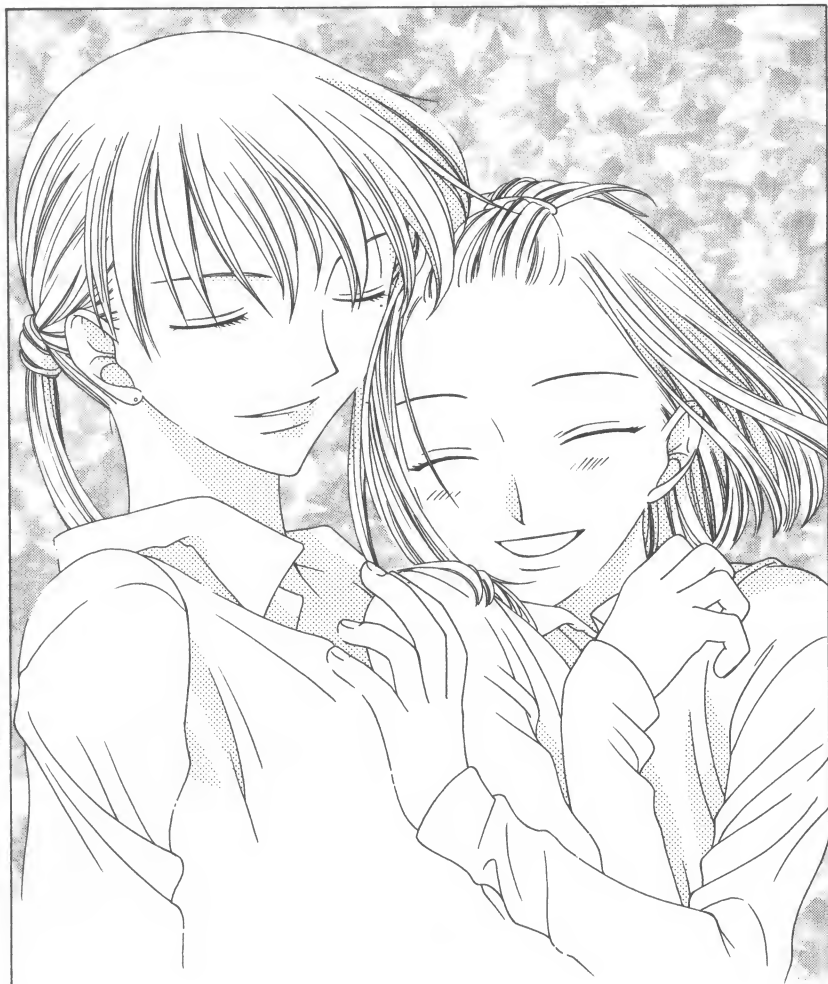
I'M SORRY.

I HAVE TO...

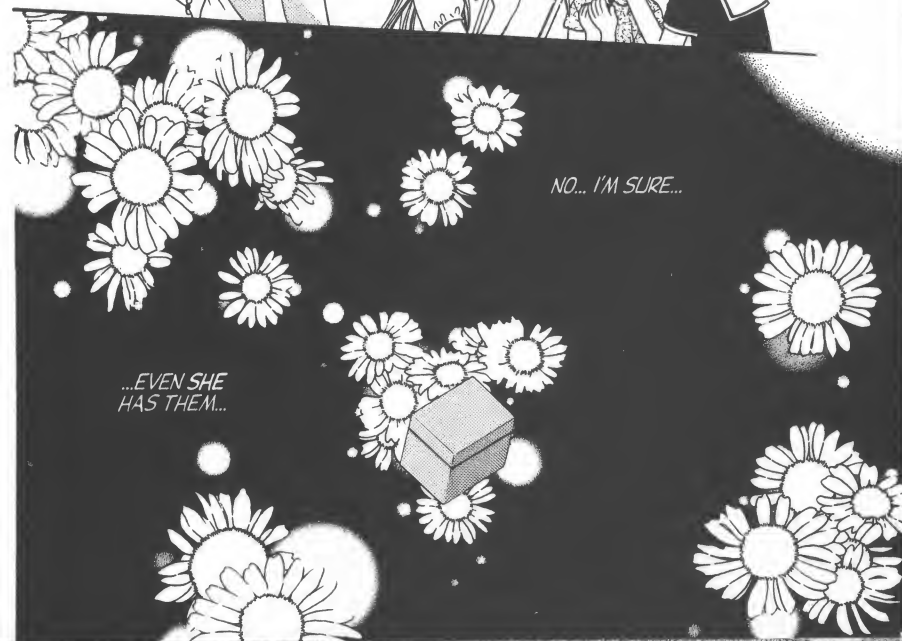
...BECOME...

I'M SORRY, KISA.



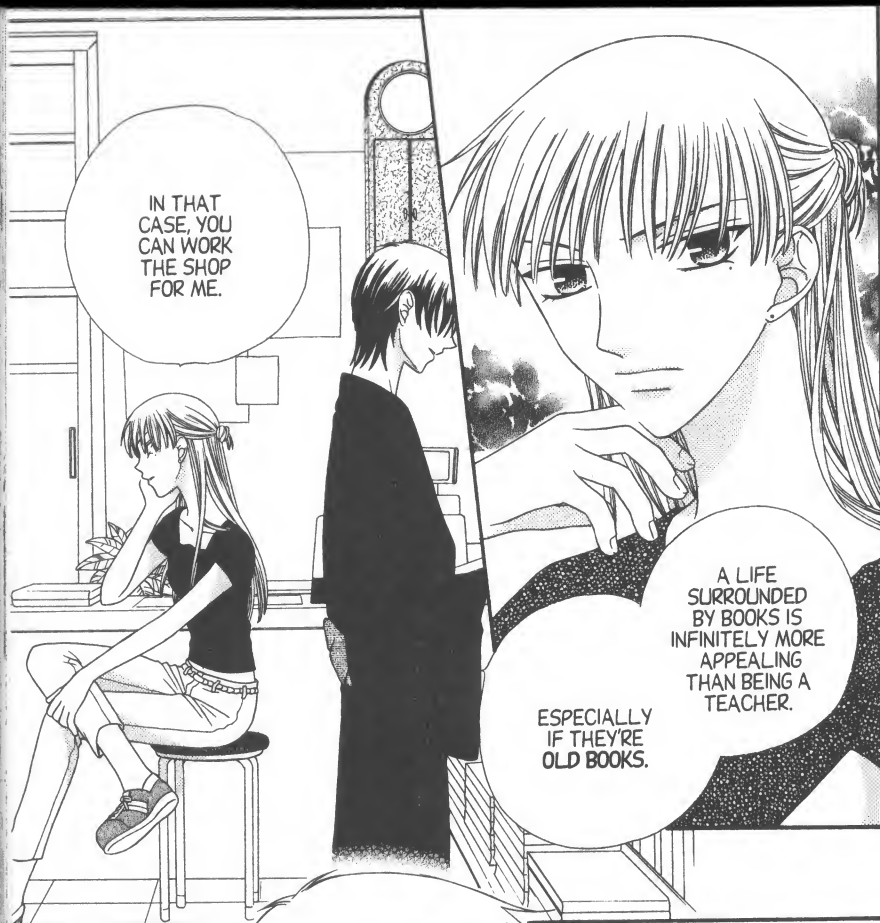


Chapter 56



NO... I'M SURE...

...EVEN SHE
HAS THEM...



IN THAT
CASE, YOU
CAN WORK
THE SHOP
FOR ME.

A LIFE
SURROUNDED
BY BOOKS IS
INFINITELY MORE
APPEALING
THAN BEING A
TEACHER.

ESPECIALLY
IF THEY'RE
OLD BOOKS.



WHY ARE YOU
TENDING THE
STORE TODAY,
ANYWAY,
MAYU?

YOU'RE SO
NEGLIGENT.

BUT...

Are teachers allowed to
moonlight?



IF THERE WAS
SOME WAY TO
BRING BACK THE
HAPPINESS OF
THOSE TWO...

...I'M SURE...

...I WOULD
HAVE GONE
TO FIND IT.

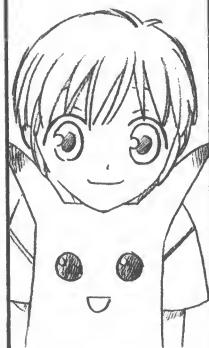
I REALLY
THINK THAT YOU
SHOULD HAVE
TAKEN OVER THIS
SHOP, MAYU.

*Sign: Shiraki Bookstore

BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 3

Mayu-chan has shown her head before (Has her name come up?), as the homeroom teacher for Tohru and the others, but I don't think I ever figured out what it is that she teaches. I think she kind of fits the image of a classic lit teacher.

Mogeta and his pal Ari



Mogeta?!! Of all things, I start with Mogeta?!! (Let's dig right in...) What volume did they first appear in? Was it four? Ah, it was three. I just looked it up. I think I drew them before, too, but they're characters I drew without thinking too deeply about them. It's been decided that Mogeta is actually female (?), and Ari is a miser. What lousy decisions...



...MORE THAN TWO YEARS SINCE THAT DAY.

MUCH MORE TIME HAS PASSED SINCE I MET HIM.

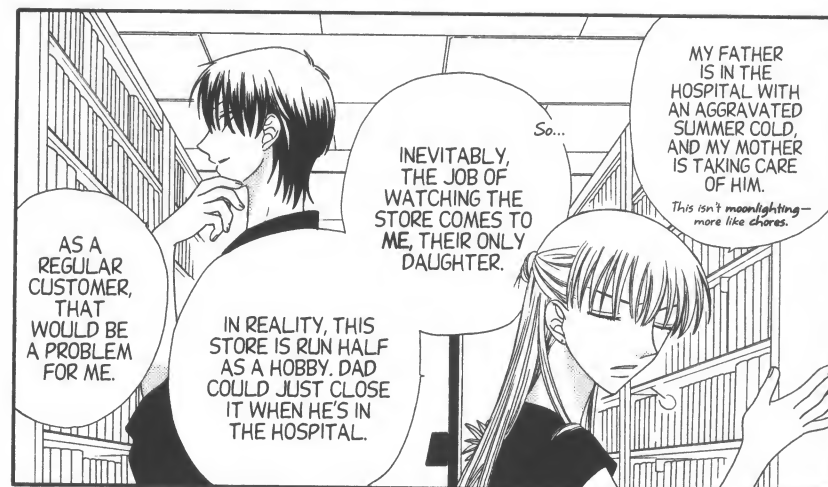
I'LL INTRODUCE YOU.

TWO YEARS... HUH?

THIS IS MAYUKO SHIRAKI-SAN.

SHE'S MY BEST FRIEND. I TALK TO HER ALL THE TIME.

IT SEEMS LIKE...



AS A REGULAR CUSTOMER, THAT WOULD BE A PROBLEM FOR ME.

IN REALITY, THIS STORE IS RUN HALF AS A HOBBY. DAD COULD JUST CLOSE IT WHEN HE'S IN THE HOSPITAL.

INEVITABLY, THE JOB OF WATCHING THE STORE COMES TO ME, THEIR ONLY DAUGHTER.

MY FATHER IS IN THE HOSPITAL WITH AN AGGRAVATED SUMMER COLD, AND MY MOTHER IS TAKING CARE OF HIM.

This isn't moonlighting—more like chores.

So...



IS THIS WHAT THEY MEAN BY A CODEPENDENT RELATIONSHIP?

WHATEVER IT IS, I CAN'T SEEM TO GET HIM OUT OF MY LIFE.

AND WHEN I GO TO SCHOOL, THERE ARE STILL SOHMA KIDS.

IT'S BEEN...



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "REGULAR CUSTOMER"? YOU'RE JUST MY PATHETIC EX-BOYFRIEND.

So you know, the book you ordered won't get here until tomorrow.

BUT ISN'T IT ROMANTIC THAT WE KEEP MEETING LIKE THIS, EVEN AFTER WE'VE BROKEN UP?



THERE'S NO ROMANCE OR CRAP BETWEEN US.

SHEESH...



...MY HEART
BURNED
WITH GUILT.

I'M SORRY, KANA
WASN'T BEING
UNREASONABLE,
WAS SHE?

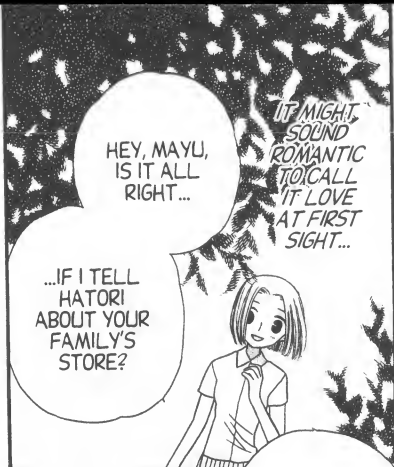
OF
COURSE
NOT.



I MEAN... I
DIDN'T THINK
HE'D COME
ALONE...

...MAYU.

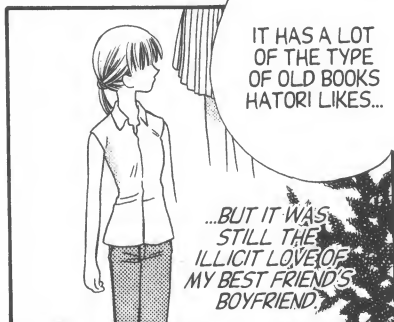
I'LL CHOOSE MY
OWN BOOK. YOU
DON'T HAVE TO
STAY HERE...



HEY, MAYU,
IS IT ALL
RIGHT...

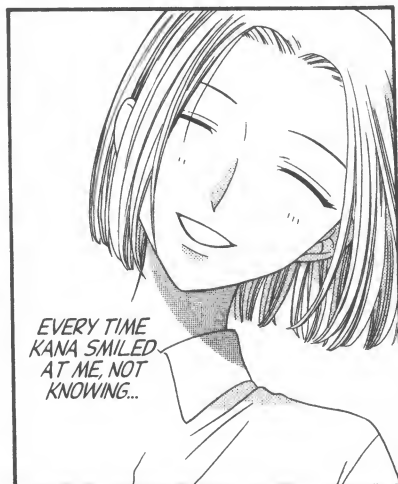
IT MIGHT
SOUND
ROMANTIC
TO CALL
IT LOVE
AT FIRST
SIGHT...

...IF I TELL
HATORI
ABOUT YOUR
FAMILY'S
STORE?



IT HAS A LOT
OF THE TYPE
OF OLD BOOKS
HATORI LIKES...

...BUT IT WAS
STILL THE
ILLEGIT LOVE OF
MY BEST FRIEND'S
BOYFRIEND.



EVERY TIME
KANA SMILED
AT ME NOT
KNOWING...



I COULD
JUST
TELL...

...RIGHT
AWAY.

BUT I'M SO
STUPID.

WHY DID
I THINK...

...THAT
I LIKED
HIM?



MAYU.

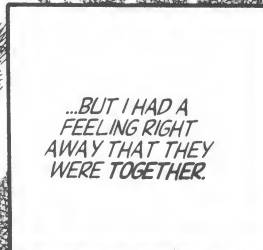
THIS
IS HATORI
SOHMA-SAN.



I WORK
AS HIS
ASSISTANT!



NEITHER OF
THEM SAID
ANYTHING...



...BUT I HAD A
FEELING RIGHT
AWAY THAT THEY
WERE TOGETHER.



.....
YOU'RE
RIGHT.

SHE'S
EXACTLY
WHAT
I ADMIRE
IN A
PERSON.

SHE SMILES
WHEN SHE'S
HAPPY, AND
CRIES WHEN
SHE'S SAD.

SHE'S CARE-
FREE AND
CHEERFUL.

I WISH...

I THINK
I UNDERSTAND.

...I COULD
HAVE
BEEN LIKE
THAT.



OH...
EXCUSE
ME.

KANA
ALWAYS
CALLS
YOU THAT.
I GUESS IT
RUBBED
OFF.

OH...
EXCUSE
ME.

THAT'S
BOLD OF
YOU TO
CALL ME
THAT.



EVER SINCE
WE MET IN
COLLEGE...

WE'RE STILL
GOOD FRIENDS
NOW, AFTER
GRADUATING.

SHE TALKS
ABOUT YOU
OFTEN...
YOU MUST
BE GOOD
FRIENDS.

SHE
TRUSTS
YOU.

IT'S
STRANGE...
WHEN
I'M WITH
KANA...

...I START TO
FEEL LIKE
I CAN BE
NICER, TOO.

THAT'S
BECAUSE
WE'RE BEST
FRIENDS.



DESPITE
THAT, I MET
SHIGURE AND
AYA-KUN...

...AND
LEARNED
MORE AND
MORE
ABOUT
HIM.

...FORGOTTEN
ALL ABOUT
HIM.



YEAH...SHE
WAS SAYING
THAT.

KANA-CHAN
SAYS SHE'D LIKE
TO GO DRINKING
TOGETHER AGAIN.

I REALLY
AM STUPID.



THERE ARE
TIMES WHEN
IT'S SAFER
NOT KNOWING.

I WONDER
WHY THEY
DON'T JUST
SAY SO.

THOSE
TWO...

THEY'RE
GOING OUT,
AREN'T
THEY?



DON'T
ASK ME.

I don't know.

I LIKED...

BEST
FRIENDS... IS
THAT WHAT
THEY ARE?



...HOW HIS
SMILES
WOULD
FALL LIKE
A SINGLE
DROP OF
RAIN.



KANA TOLD ME
ABOUT THEM.
SHIGURE AND
AYAME, RIGHT?

...HATORI-
KUN.
I HEAR
...

...YOU'VE
GOT BEST
FRIENDS,
TOO.

...HIS EXISTENCE...

I LOVED
THEM ALL.

HIS VOICE,
HIS EYES...

...HIS SHAPE...



EVEN
THOUGH
IT WAS
USELESS,
NO MATTER
HOW MUCH
I THOUGHT
ABOUT HIM.
I WISH I
COULD
HAVE...

...MY
FEELINGS
WOULD
NEVER
REACH
HIM.

EVEN
THOUGH...



OKAY... WHY NOT GO OUT WITH ME, THEN?

...HUH?

THAT'S WISE OF YOU.

I WANT THEM TO GET TO A PLACE I CAN'T REACH.



SO I'LL GO OUT WITH YOU.

AND I'VE BEEN BORED.

BECAUSE YOU SEEM LONELY.

AND WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'D CONSIDER THAT?

YOU'RE AT A POINT WHERE YOU DON'T CARE WHO IT IS, AS LONG AS THEY'RE WITH YOU, RIGHT?



...HOW DID YOU KNOW?

OH, I SEEM TO BE SENSITIVE TO THESE THINGS.

JUST LIKE HOW IT'S MORE PEACEFUL THAT KANA-CHAN DOESN'T KNOW...

...ABOUT YOUR SECRET CRUSH.

YOU SHOULD JUST TAKE HIM.

...STOP JOKING AROUND.

I'M NO MATCH FOR KANA.

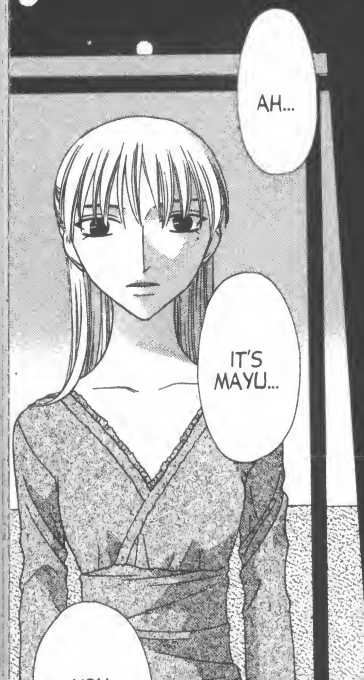
I ADMIRE HER BECAUSE I'M NO MATCH FOR HER.

...TO A POINT WHERE I KNOW I DON'T HAVE A CHANCE.

SO THAT I REALLY KNOW THAT I'M NO MATCH FOR HER.

I'D RATHER SEE THOSE TWO BE HAPPY...





AH...

IT'S
MAYU...

YOU
CAME
...



...TO...

...TO
SEE...
ME?



THAT'S
WHY,
KANA...
...YOU
SHOULD BE
HAPPY.

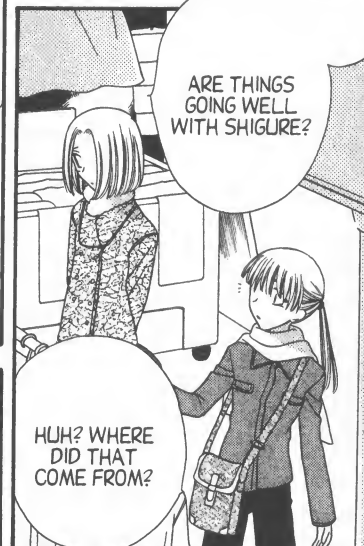
BE
HAPPY.



BECAUSE...
YOU WORRY
SO MUCH
ABOUT OTHERS,
MAYU...

...THAT
SOMETIMES
YOU FORGET
TO TAKE
CARE OF
YOURSELF.

I'M WORRIED
ABOUT WHETHER
YOU'RE TRULY
HAPPY OR NOT.



MAYU...

ARE THINGS
GOING WELL
WITH SHIGURE?

HUH? WHERE
DID THAT
COME FROM?



OH NO!
I'M SORRY.
I DIDN'T
MEAN TO...

EH
?!

...THANK
YOU!

I'M ALL
RIGHT.

...I SEE.

SO SHIGURE
HASN'T WON
YOU OVER YET,
KANA?



KANA...

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

WHAT CAN I DO? IT...

...PROTECT HIM!

IT...

IT CAN'T BE FIXED... IT'S ALL MY FAULT.

I WAS...RIGHT THERE, BUT... BUT HE... GOT HURT SO BADLY!

I...

I COULDN'T ...

PROTECT HIM...



I'M SORRY. IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE WE'VE SEEN EACH OTHER.

I MUST LOOK LIKE SUCH A MESS...

BUT... IT REALLY HAS BEEN A LONG TIME.

I HADN'T HEARD ANYTHING, SO I STARTED TO WORRY.

TODAY I HAD SHIGURE HELP ME SNEAK IN.

AREN'T WE CLOSE ENOUGH THAT YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT?



... HATORI ...

HATORI, YOU KNOW...

HAVE YOU...SEEN HATORI?

EH? NO, I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM...



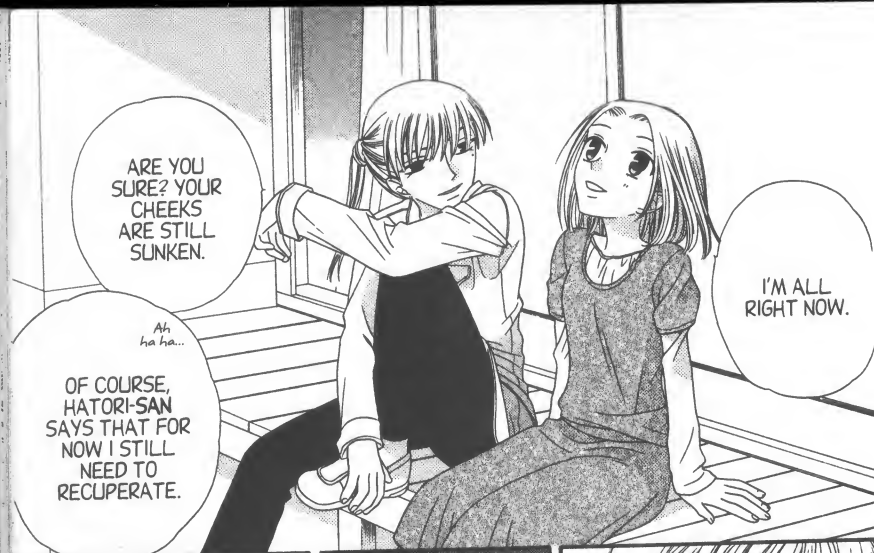
IT WAS BECAUSE OF ME.

IT...

...IT...

HE HURT...

...HIS EYE.

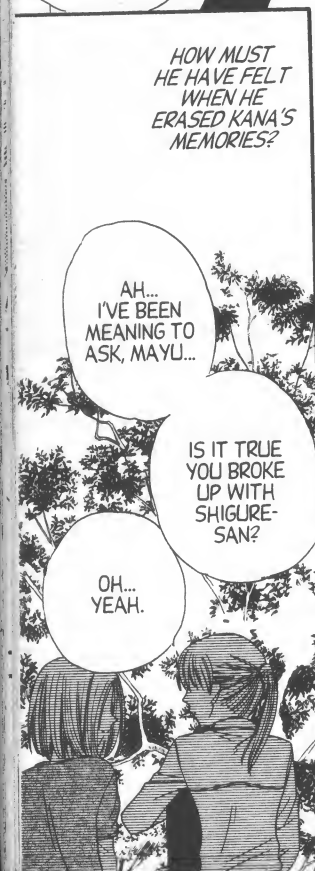


ARE YOU SURE? YOUR CHEEKS ARE STILL SUNKEN.

Ah ha ha...

I'M ALL RIGHT NOW.

OF COURSE, HATORI-SAN SAYS THAT FOR NOW I STILL NEED TO RECUPERATE.

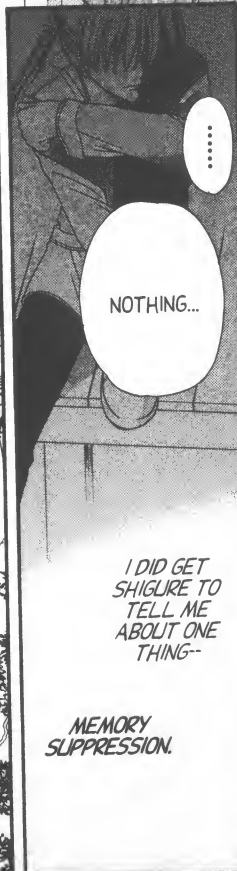


HOW MUST HE HAVE FELT WHEN HE ERASED KANA'S MEMORIES?

AH... I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK, MAYU...

IS IT TRUE YOU BROKE UP WITH SHIGURE-SAN?

OH... YEAH.



NOTHING...

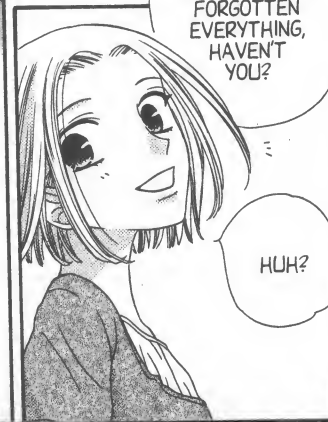
I DID GET SHIGURE TO TELL ME ABOUT ONE THING--

MEMORY SUPPRESSION.



SO I THINK I'LL GO BACK TO MY MOTHER'S FAMILY AND REST.

...YOU REALLY HAVE FORGOTTEN EVERYTHING, HAVEN'T YOU?



HUH?

THAT FACT COULDN'T BE CHANGED.

...I MUST HAVE WORRIED YOU, TOO, MAYU.

...STAYING IN BED FOR SO LONG...

IT WAS BROKEN.

IT WAS ALL OVER.

JUST LIKE THAT...

...THEIR HAPPINESS WAS BROKEN.



THE REASONS THAT LED UP TO THIS...

NONE OF THAT MATTERED.

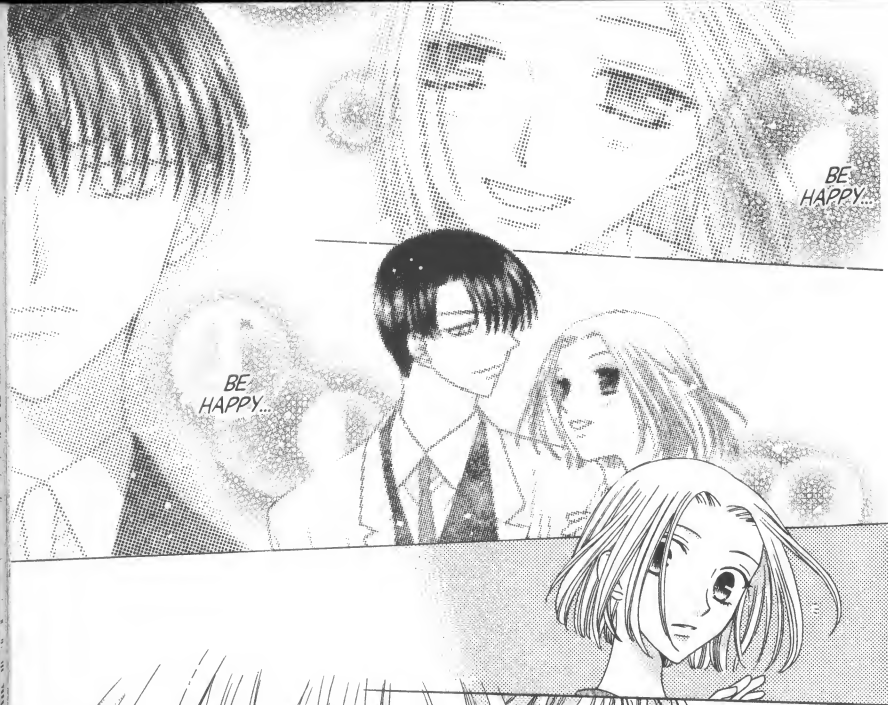


ARE YOU GOING TO SEE HATORI?



I TOLD YOU IT WOULD BE BETTER NOT TO SEE HER, DIDN'T I?

SEE?





...YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S STILL HOLDING ON TO THOSE MEMORIES...

...EVEN MORE THAN TWO YEARS LATER.

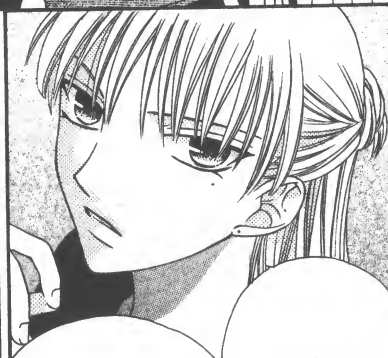


...AND HATORI HAS A GIRL-FRIEND.

YOUR SENSE OF DUTY TO YOUR FRIENDS IS ADMIRABLE...

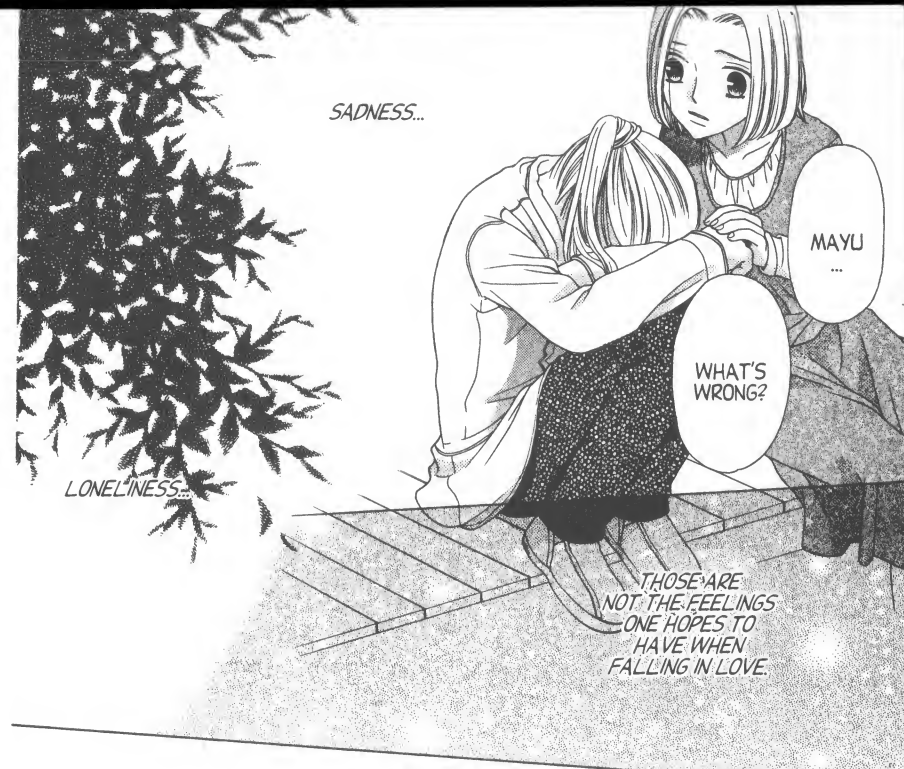
...BUT DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME YOU STOPPED ADMONISHING YOURSELF?

KANA-CHAN IS MARRIED...



THE FACT THAT YOU HAVEN'T SEEN HATORI ONCE SINCE THEN IS ADEQUATE PROOF.

...WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



SADNESS...

MAYU ...

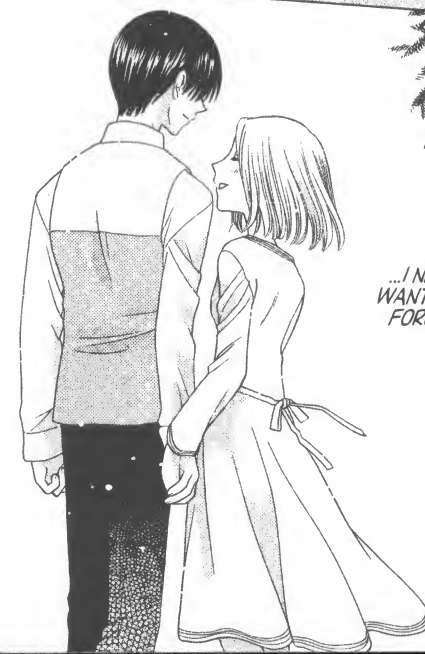
WHAT'S WRONG?

LONELINESS...

THOSE ARE NOT THE FEELINGS ONE HOPES TO HAVE WHEN FALLING IN LOVE.

...THE MEMORY OF THOSE TWO AND THE HAPPINESS THEY ALMOST SHARED.

YOU KNOW, MAYA...



BUT FROM THAT DAY...

...I NEVER WANTED TO FORGET...



I SEE...

DOESN'T THAT
MAKE YOU FEEL
LONELY?

THE TWO OF
THEM FOUND
THEIR OWN
HAPPINESS...

SO YOU
MUST BE
THINKING...

...OF HOW
STUPID
YOU'RE
BEING.

...AND YOU'RE
STILL ALL ALONE
WITH ONLY YOUR
UNSPOKEN FEELINGS
TOWARD HATORI
LEFT TO KEEP YOU
COMPANY.



I'M FINE. NO.
I MUST HUMBLY
DECLINE.

Thanks
anyway.

IF YOU LIKE,
I'LL GO OUT
WITH YOU
AGAIN.



I...SEE.

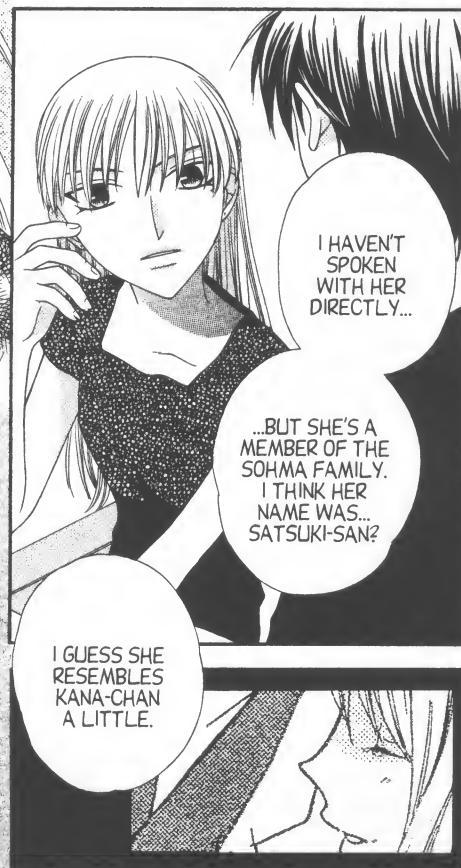
I SEE.

EVEN HE
MOVED ON
EVENTUALLY...



...NO
WAY.

WAY.



I HAVEN'T
SPOKEN
WITH HER
DIRECTLY...

...BUT SHE'S A
MEMBER OF THE
SOHMA FAMILY.
I THINK HER
NAME WAS...
SATSUKI-SAN?

I GUESS SHE
RESEMBLES
KANA-CHAN
A LITTLE.



THANKS...
I THINK.

YOU KNOW,
MAYU...

...I REALLY DID
LIKE YOU FOR
WHO YOU ARE.



THE TWO OF
THEM FOUND
THEIR OWN
HAPPINESS.

I WONDER IF I
CAN FIND IT...

...THIS
TIME...?

MAYBE I
SHOULD...

...GO FIND
MY OWN
HAPPINESS.



...GO OUT
WITH SOME-
ONE JUST
BECAUSE I'M
LONELY...

...EVER
AGAIN.

BECAUSE
I KNOW...

LOOK
WHO'S
TALKING.

YOU'RE
SO COLD
...

DO YOU
EVEN HAVE
FEELINGS
OF YOUR
OWN?

pat

I WON'T...

...THAT THE
LONELINESS
WILL ONLY
INCREASE.

I RELIEVED
YOU OF YOUR
BOREDOM,
DIDN'T I?

TRUE, TRUE.
I'M NOT SAYING
STUPID WOMEN
ARE WITHOUT
THEIR USES.

THAT'S
WHAT I'M
SAYING...

...IS STUPID
ABOUT YOU.

Filler
Sketch



Not near. Not far. Someday.



MAYBE
THIS TIME...

Clock...
Clock...
Clock...

...I CAN
FIND LOVE
WITHOUT
LONELINESS...

Chapter 57





BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 4

Anyway, it doesn't really matter what I write here, so— There are times when I cry suddenly, like turning on the lights, without caring what's around me, and times when I can't do anything but cry. Afterwards, I like to happily eat rice.

*I feel
so grateful!*



Harada-sama, Araki-sama, mother, father, and everyone who reads and supports this manga...thank you so much!

(And thank you for the presents!)

Next time is... Ah! good for you, Hiro. You're next to Kisa.

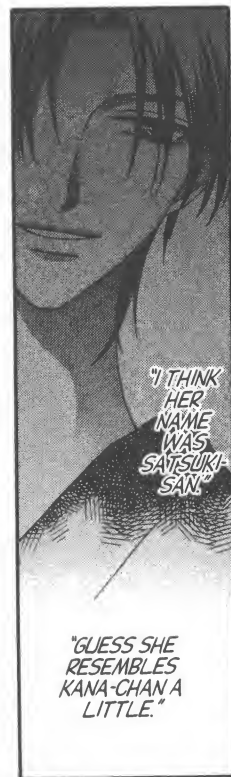
—Natsuki Takaya



I'M SORRY.

You haven't changed...

AREN'T YOU BAKING? I GET HOT JUST LOOKING AT YOU IN THAT SUIT.



"HASA GIRL-FRIEND..."

"I THINK HER NAME WAS SATSUKI-SAN."

"GUESS SHE RESEMBLES KANA-CHAN A LITTLE."



I MUST BE DAYDREAMING. THAT'S IT. THE HEAT IS GETTING TO ME...

NO, I'M SORRY. I'M JUST...SURPRISED. REALLY, REALLY SURPRISED.

BECAUSE SHIGURE WAS JUST HERE, AND WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THINGS, AND...



IT HASN'T CHANGED...

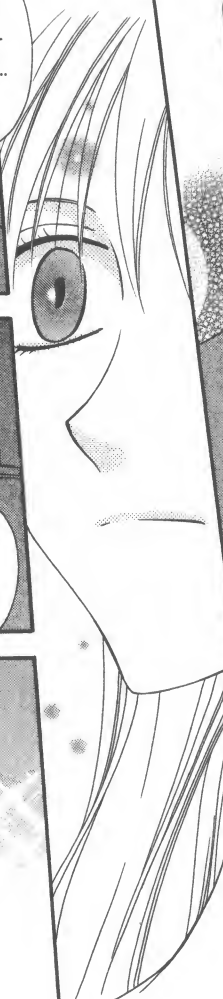
THIS SHOP.



NEITHER HAVE YOU.



HATORI... KUN.



IT'S BEEN MORE THAN TWO YEARS, HASN'T IT?



NO.



I'M SURE YOU'RE QUITE BUSY, AS USUAL.

I HAVE THE ADDRESS OF THE MAIN HOUSE.

IT CAN'T BE HELPED.

I'LL COME BACK TOMORROW.

It--
IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'LL MAIL IT TO YOU.



WELL, THEN...

HATORI-KUN!



NO...

IT'S FINE.

I'LL COME.



.....? DIDN'T HE TELL YOU?

eh...
EH!
THAT BOOK WAS FOR YOU, HATORI?!

I CAME TO PICK UP THE BOOK.

I ASKED SHIGURE TO ORDER IT FOR ME.

Not a word!

Of course he didn't!



HE DID IT ON PURPOSE!

THAT BASTARD DID THIS ON PURPOSE!

NO...
I'M SORRY...
THAT BOOK WON'T GET HERE UNTIL TOMORROW.

REALLY? BUT HE TOLD ME IT WOULD BE HERE TODAY.

Typical.
Honestly, Shigure...

HE WANTED TO MAKE US RUN INTO EACH OTHER. THAT SADIST!

STOMP
た
STOMP
た
STOMP
た
STOMP
た

AH,
DAMMIT!!

IT'S SUMMER
BREAK. IF I CALL
SHIGURE'S HOUSE,
ONE OF THE KIDS
MIGHT PICK UP!

She
doesn't
know
they're at
a summer
home.

YOU IDIOT, GET A
CELL PHONE. I'M
NOT LETTING YOU
OFF THE HOOK
FOR THIS!

HATORI-
KUN HAD
THAT SAME
INDIFFERENT
ATTITUDE
AS BEFORE.

Hue
Hee...

THAT'S
WHY PEOPLE
MISUNDERSTAND
AND THINK
HE'S SCARY.

sigh

REALLY!
WHAT IS HE
THINKING?

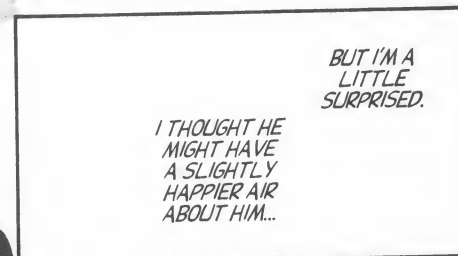
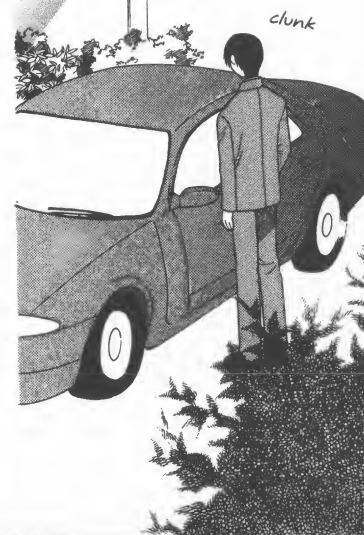
I DON'T THINK
I'VE EVER BEEN
SO SURPRISED
BEFORE IN
MY LIFE.

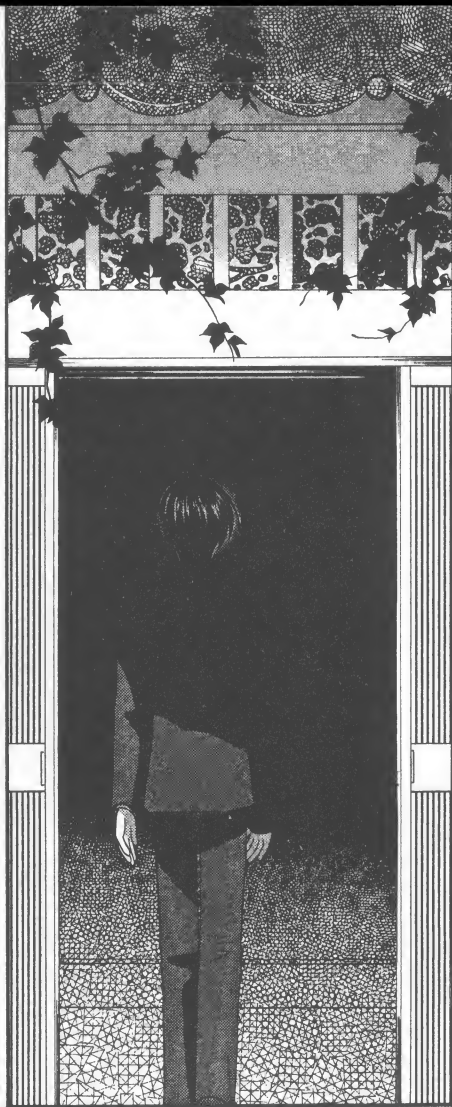


Minami
Kinoshita



She started appearing in the first chapter. If you were to say she's an old character, you'd be correct! A youth that never stops... a youth that plunges ever forward! She doesn't worry about what's going on around her (let's try doing that). But it's good that she's energetic. She really does love Yuki, but doesn't seem to think of actually touching the real thing. That, too, is youth. Motoko's like that, too.





IF YOU CARED
ANYTHING FOR
THE FEELINGS
OF AKITO-SAN,
WHO TRUSTS
YOU ABOVE
ANYONE ELSE...

HATORI-
SAN, YOU WILL
PLEASE REFRAIN
FROM GOING OUT
SO OFTEN.

SOMETHING
MIGHT
HAPPEN.

...YOU WOULD
ALWAYS BE
BY HIS SIDE.



HOW
DISGRACEFUL.

WELL, THEN,
HATORI-SAN,
PLEASE HURRY.

CRYING SO
LOUDLY...

OH MY...
I WONDER
WHAT THE
MATTER IS.

WAAAH!



oh...
HATORI-KUN...

DID I INTERRUPT SOMETHING?



GRR...! IT'S NOT FAIR FOR PARENTS TO CRY!

And dad's getting out of the hospital tomorrow!

IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO US, YOU WOULD BE ALL ALONE.

Oh, the pain...

WHAT WITH YOUR FATHER IN THE HOSPITAL...

sob
sob
sob

creak

Ah!

CROCODILE TEARS?!

WELCOME!



Go outside!!

WELL THEN, OUTSIDE! ANYWAY, GO OUTSIDE! IT'S FINE, SO GO OUTSIDE!

G
Y
A
A

A
H
H

OH MY GOODNESS. WHAT IS THIS, MAYUKO? COULD THIS BE A NEW BOYFR--

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PURCHASE!

HUH?



Oh... OKAY.

THE BOOK SHIGURE-SAN ORDERED.

MAYUKO, HERE.



*Sign: Shiraki Bookstore

白木書房

AHHH...

I NEVER WAS ABLE TO GET A HOLD OF SHIGURE YESTERDAY.



I TOLD YOU!

Here it is. The dreaded subject...

HEY, MAYUKO.

WHY WON'T YOU MARRY SHIGURE-SAN?



I'M SORRY, DEAR. IT'S JUST THAT YOUR FATHER AND I ARE WORRIED ABOUT YOU!

THEN AT LEAST LET US ARRANGE AN INTERVIEW TO SEE IF HE'S SUITABLE.

I'LL SETTLE DOWN WHEN I SETTLE DOWN, SO LEAVE ME ALONE!

BUT YOU'RE PAST MARRIAGEABLE AGE. YOU SHOULD SETTLE DOWN SOON...

I THOUGHT I'D TOLD YOU A THOUSAND TIMES-- I BROKE UP WITH SHIGURE!



YOU'RE SO SERIOUS, HATORI-KUN.

HEE
HEE
HEE...

HEH
HEH!

I'M JUST
DRIFTING
ALONG.

...IS
SOMETHING
FUNNY?

SORRY...
NO.

Hee hee...



NO, NOT REALLY.

WHAT'S
WRONG,
HATORI-
KUN?

I THOUGHT
THIS YESTER-
DAY, TOO,
BUT...

...YOU...
DON'T SEEM
WELL.

DID
I HURT
YOU?



I DON'T
REALLY
UNDER-
STAND, BUT
IT SEEMS
TERRIBLE.

JUST LIKE
MEN DO!

WOMEN
HAVE MANY
MOUNTAINS AND
VALLEYS THAT
THEY MUST
CROSS!

Here's your
book.

...Payment.



YEAH,
WELL...

Huh?

NOW THAT
I NOTICE, YOU'RE
NOT WEARING A
SUIT TODAY?



TEE
HEE...

I DIDN'T
WANT YOU
TO GET HOT
LOOKING AT
ME, AGAIN.



...WELL?

WHY ARE
WE ALL THE
WAY OUT
HERE?

My car
is parked
in the exact
opposite
direction.

...I
PLEAD
THE
FIFTH.

huff
huff



I DON'T KNOW...

I JUST DON'T KNOW.

OF COURSE I WANT TO FIND MY OWN HAPPINESS...

...BUT THINKING ABOUT HIM WON'T MAKE THAT HAPPEN.

WHAT IS IT THAT'S STILL...

...EATING INTO HIM SO MUCH?



WHAT ...

...ARE YOU SAYING?



WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, HATORI-KUN?

IT CAN'T BE TRUE.



FEELINGS LIKE THOSE...

...WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.

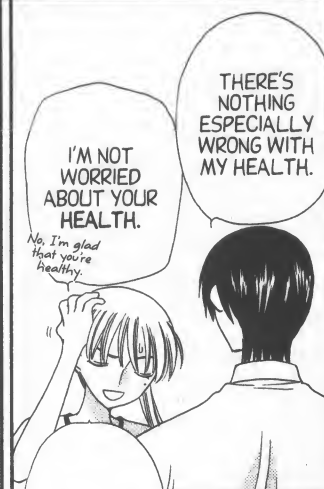


I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY.

THE KANA THING IS OVER.

AND HE HAS A NEW GIRLFRIEND, RIGHT?

SO WHY...?

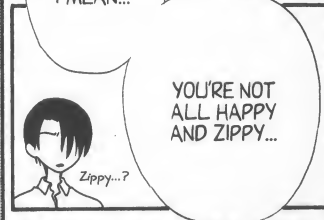


I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT YOUR HEALTH.

No, I'm glad that you're healthy.

THERE'S NOTHING ESPECIALLY WRONG WITH MY HEALTH.

I MEAN...



YOU'RE NOT ALL HAPPY AND ZIPPY...

Zippy...?



LIKE BACK THEN...

YOU AREN'T GIVING OFF THAT HAPPY AURA... YOU KNOW?



I DON'T...

...CARE ANYMORE!

HELP...



YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY SENSE...

I DON'T CARE!!



I DON'T CARE...



UH...

I'M BEGGING...

WITH
UTMOST
SELFISH-
NESS...



PLEASE...

...RELEASE HIM.

.....!



EVERYONE IS LAUGHING SO HAPPILY!

THE SKY IS SO BLUE...

IT WON'T CHANGE ANYTHING, SO WHY?

...THE WATER IS SPARKLING SO BRIGHTLY...

IT'S NOT TRUE, IS IT...?



IT CAN'T BE TRUE!!

THAT YOU CAN'T BE HAPPY...

SO IT CAN'T BE TRUE, HATORI-KUN!



I WON'T BELIEVE IN ANYTHING!!

IF IT IS, I WON'T BELIEVE!

WITHOUT
SHAME...

...LIKE A
CHILD.

IT'S NOT
EASY TO
HAVE A
GOOD CRY
ANY-
MORE.

WHEN
YOU GET
OLDER...

I DIDN'T
MEAN TO
DUMP MY
TROUBLES
ON YOU.

I THINK IT'S
TRUE WHAT
THEY SAY...

CRYING,
UNEXPECTEDLY,
DOES MAKES
YOU FEEL
BETTER.

...YOU
FORGET
ABOUT
THAT.



I JUST
WANTED
A LITTLE
ESCAPE.

I'VE
BEEN...

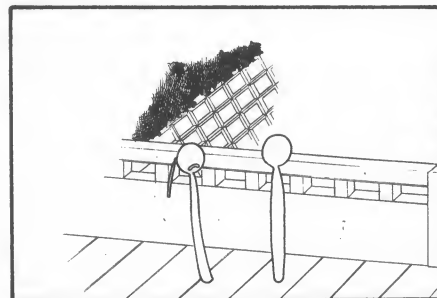
...A LITTLE
EXHAUSTED
BY IT ALL.

...NEEDED
TO GET
OUTSIDE
OF THAT
PLACE.

I JUST...

LOOK, I
THINK
...

...WE
HAVE A
MISUNDER-
STANDING.





AFTER ALL...

...IT'S SUCH A NICE DAY.

I WILL!

ALL RIGHT!

I'LL HAVE BEER. DRAFT BEER.

YOU WOULD DRINK IN FRONT OF SOMEONE WHO'S GOING TO DRIVE?

You're evil.



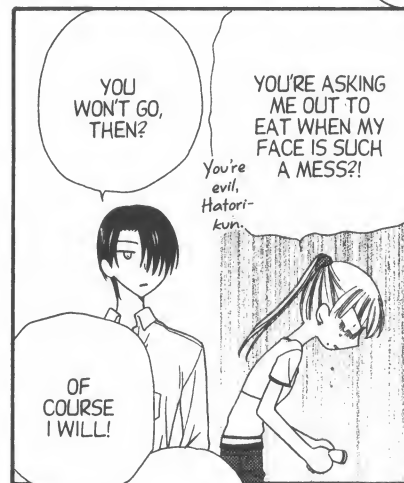
I totally believed him...

AAAAHHH! DAMMIT, I'M SO STUPID. I'M THE IDIOT OF A LIFETIME!

DO YOU HAVE SOME TIME?

YOU'RE BEING UNREASONABLE AGAIN...

Why is this my fault?



YOU WON'T GO, THEN?

YOU'RE ASKING ME OUT TO EAT WHEN MY FACE IS SUCH A MESS?!

You're evil, Hatori-kun...

OF COURSE I WILL!

OF COURSE...

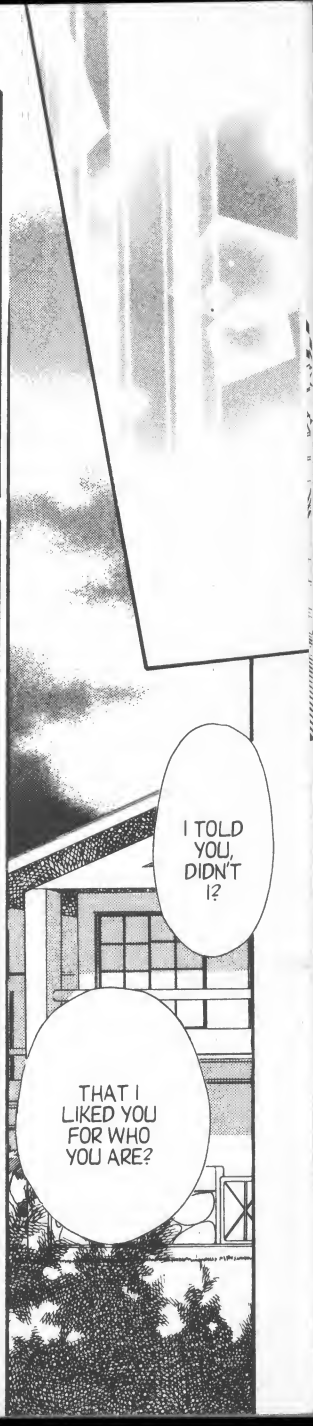
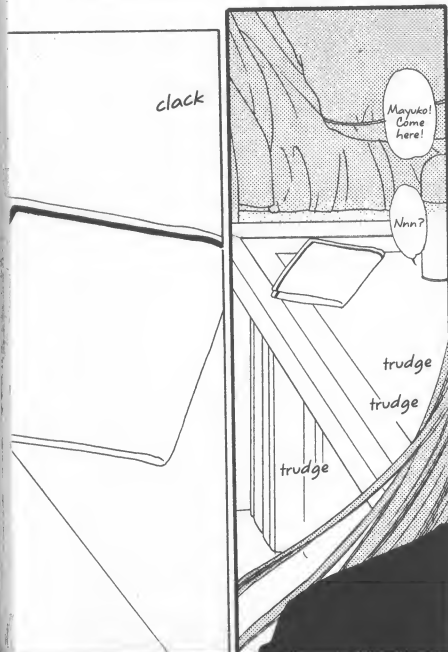
GIVE MY TEARS BACK, RIGHT NOW--WITH INTEREST!!

Give them back !!



IF YOU DO, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO OUT TO EAT OR SOMETHING?

AS AN APOLOGY AND A THANK YOU.





Chapter 58

BUT BEFORE
I WOULD CUT
MY HAIR SHORT...

FIVE OR TEN
YEARS WAS AN
EXAGGERATION...

...AND HE
WOULD START
CALLING ME
"MAYU," AGAIN...

A LITTLE
MORE...

...TIME
WOULD
PASS.

...AND WE
WOULD
GO OUT
TOGETHER
ON DAYS
WHEN THE
WEATHER
WAS NICE...





BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 5

When I was little... I thought that if you swallowed the seeds, a watermelon *would* grow. I also worried that if I swallowed gum it would grow, too. Thinking about it now, I really wonder why...

STOMP

STOMP

STOMP

IT WAS A JOKE!

EH...?

EH?

EH?!

Even I think middle-schoolers are, too...



FORGET ABOUT HER TRIPPING— IF THERE'S A FLIGHT OF STAIRS IN FRONT OF HER, SHE'LL FIND A WAY TO FALL DOWN THEM.

AAHH, BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE FUTURE. SHE'S ALWAYS SUCH A KLUTZ.

TEE HEE HEE!

SHE'S BOUNCING OFF THE WALLS AND WANTS ME TO COME HOME RIGHT AWAY AND CELEBRATE.

YEAH, WELL...

THAT'S THE LAST KIND OF ADULT I WANT TO GROW INTO!



Uh, um...

BUT I REALLY AM HAPPY FOR YOU, HIRO-CHAN...

IS AUNTIE SATSUKI HAPPY...?

"The symbol on the fan means 'Dog'."

YOUR MOTHER IS NAMED SATSUKI-SAN, HIRO-SAN?

SHEESH... I WISH PEOPLE WOULD SHOW A LITTLE SYMPATHY FOR HER ADOLESCENT SON.

SATSUKI-SAN... SO YOUNG...

IT'S GOOD NEWS. YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY FOR HER.

So shameless...



THAT'S MY MOM YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! COULD YOU CUT THAT OUT?! YOU'RE FREAKING ME OUT!



...ADMIRING SWIMSUITS?

MORE LIKE...

YOU'RE SUN-BATHING, RIGHT?

YOU'VE BEEN SITTING THERE FOR SO LONG... AREN'T YOU GOING TO SWIM...?

SHIGURE OJI-CHAN*...

NNN? OJI-CHAN ISN'T VERY FOND OF SWIMMING.

**oji = the pronoun for a middle-aged man.*



IT'S NO GOOD, SENSEI. YOU'RE AN ADULT—YOU MUST EXERCISE SELF-CONTROL.

AN OLD MAN LIKE ME DOESN'T GET THAT MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO ASK...

OH, COME NOW. IT'S NOT LIKE I MEANT ANYTHING BY IT. I'M JUST ASKING FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE.

sigh...

WANT SOME ICE CREAM?



IT NEVER DOES. AYA-NII AS AN OLDER BROTHER DOESN'T FIT, EITHER.

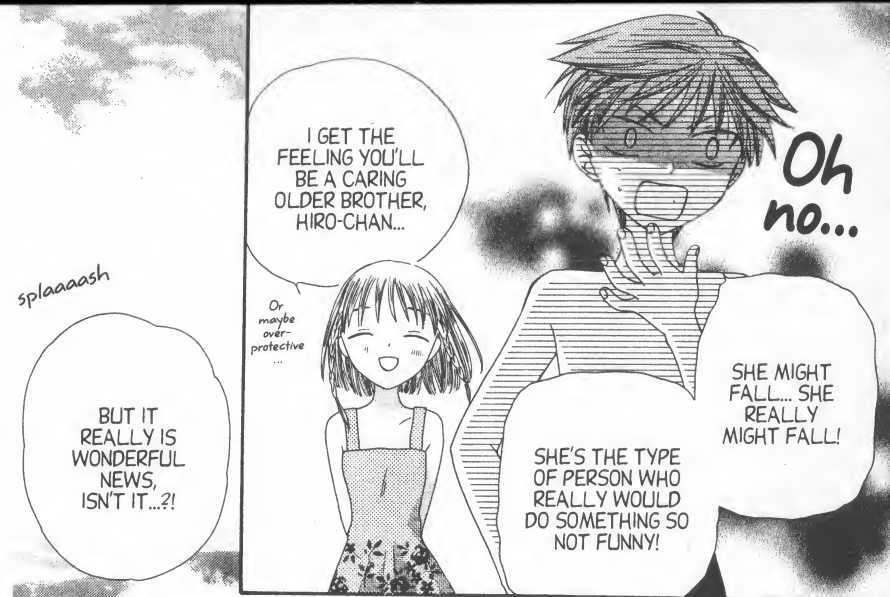
There's always someone better...

YOU'RE RIGHT, YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU DON'T HAVE TO REMIND ME.

HE'LL BE AN OLDER BROTHER? THAT DOESN'T QUITE FIT.

EEEEHH ?!

HIRO'S MAMA IS HAVING A BABY?!



splaaash

BUT IT REALLY IS WONDERFUL NEWS, ISN'T IT...?!

I GET THE FEELING YOU'LL BE A CARING OLDER BROTHER, HIRO-CHAN...

Or maybe over-protective ...

Oh no...

SHE MIGHT FALL... SHE REALLY MIGHT FALL!

SHE'S THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO REALLY WOULD DO SOMETHING SO NOT FUNNY!



SINCE IT'S SUCH A RARE OCCURRENCE, WHY DON'T WE USE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO ON A DATE?

THAT'S RIGHT. BY THE WAY, TOHRU-KUN, WHERE IS EVERYONE?

THE BABY WILL BE BORN AROUND SPRING OF NEXT YEAR, WON'T IT?!

THEY WENT OUT SHOPPING.

HMM? THEN IT REALLY IS JUST THE TWO OF US.

EH?!

The Middle School Girl Who Wanted To Start a Gang
...One of them.



What is it, moron?

They're such minor characters that they don't have names, but they were fun girls to draw. Currently, they are attending school and keeping out of trouble. They're strictly following the teachings of their "Nee-san." I want to have them show up again, but there's no room for it, so I alone feel like saying, "Tch!" I guess I just like to draw high-spirited girls.

...THAT I REALIZE...

...HOW MUCH PAIN THESE PEOPLE LIVE WITH...

...HAVING BEEN BORN POSSESSED BY VENGEFUL SPIRITS.

IT'S AT TIMES LIKE THIS...

Ah!

BUT HIRO'S MAMA WAS FINE WHEN HIRO WAS BORN, RIGHT?!

YEAH... NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT.

WHEN HIRO TURNED OUT TO BE THE RAM, SHE BURST OUT, "I LOVE SHEEP!" QUITE A MOTHER...

Isn't she? She's great, isn't she?!



...IT WON'T MAKE ITS MAMA SAD!

BUT SINCE IT DEFINITELY WON'T BE POSSESSED BY A VENGEFUL SPIRIT...

EITHER ONE WOULD BE GREAT!

I WONDER IF IT WILL BE A BOY OR A GIRL?!

BUT IF IT'S A GIRL, IT WOULD BE SAD THAT HE CAN'T HUG HER TIGHT.



PEOPLE GIVING BIRTH BECAUSE THEY WANT CHILDREN.

IT'S NICE...



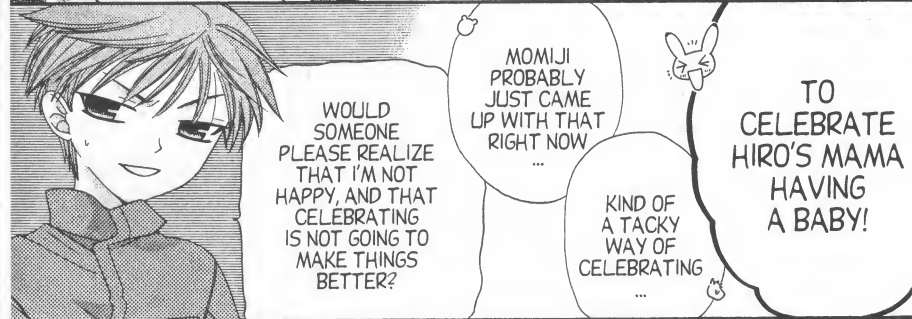
AS LONG AS WE'RE ALL ALIVE, THERE WON'T BE ANOTHER.



HE MEANS THAT ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE ZODIAC HAVE BEEN BORN.



...HUH?
?



B-but...
MOMIJI, WHERE ARE THE STICKS AND BLIND-FOLDS?

UH? WHAT'S THAT?

IT'S FINE. THERE'S A SHEET UNDER THEM.

YOU REALLY DO JUST GO FROM ONE ANNOYING THING TO THE NEXT ...

FIRST OF ALL, IT'S A WASTE!
Of watermelon.

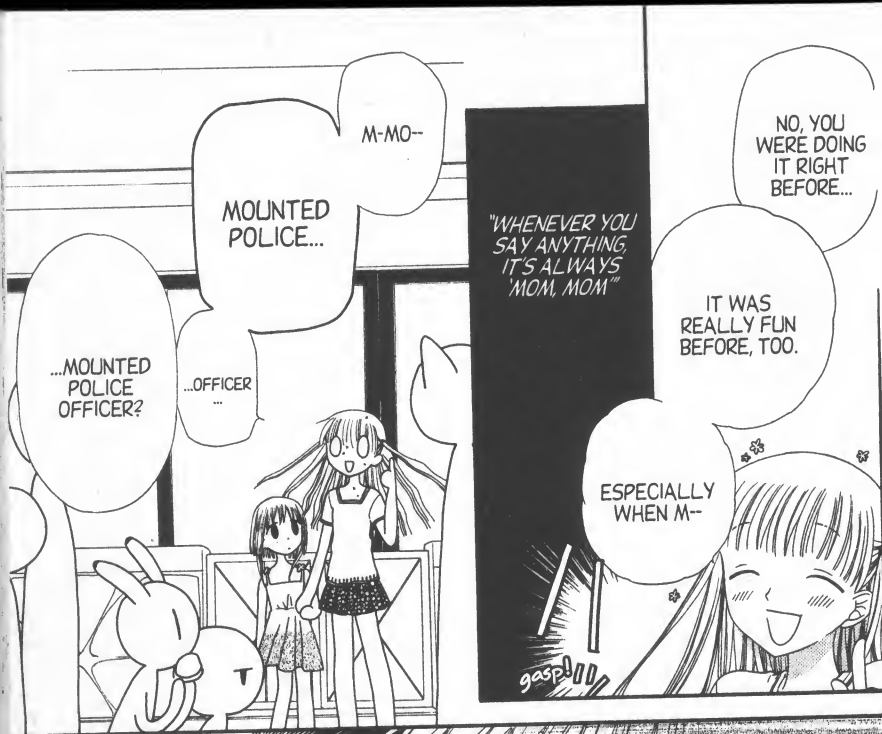


I WONDER WHAT...

...YUKI-KUN'S PARENTS ARE LIKE?

AND KYO-KUN'S...

AND EVERYONE'S...



MOUNTED POLICE...

M-MO--

...MOUNTED POLICE OFFICER?

...OFFICER ...

NO, YOU WERE DOING IT RIGHT BEFORE...

"WHENEVER YOU SAY ANYTHING, IT'S ALWAYS 'MOM, MOM'"

IT WAS REALLY FUN BEFORE, TOO.

ESPECIALLY WHEN M--

gasp!

...I'VE ALREADY SPOKEN ABOUT MY MOTHER SO MUCH THAT I'VE BEEN INSENSITIVE!!

MAYBE

Or...



WHY... WHY AM I REALIZING SUCH AN IMPORTANT THING NOW...?

IT'S TOO LATE!!

...I MIGHT HAVE HURT THEM VERY MUCH!!

THAT'S RIGHT! WITHOUT KNOWING ANYTHING ABOUT EVERYONE ELSE'S PARENTS, I...



GO FOR IT, HIRO. IT'LL BE A GOOD STORY FOR WHEN YOU'RE A BIG BROTHER.

Kyaah!

That was nice. Like a hot knife through water-melon.

DON'T SMASH IT WITH YOUR BARE HANDS AND THEN EAT IT!

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT...

Don't you mean butter?

OF COURSE, THAT TIME I HAD A STICK AND A BLINDFOLD, BUT THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF RULES, AREN'T THERE?

I'VE DONE IT ONCE BEFORE.

?!?

Uh, um!!

I WILL DO MY BEST TO SMASH ONE IN CELEBRATION!



ARE YOU CRYING BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T BREAK IT, OR BECAUSE YOUR HAND HURTS?

You really are a moron...

drip drip

ONG ONG ONG

...CO--

CONGRATULATIONS...

shudder drip



I'M BEGGING YOU, KISA! STOP!!

G Y A H

I-I'll...

...DO MY BEST TO CELEBRATE... TOO...



YOU'RE TAKING AWAY THE WHOLE POINT OF THE GAME!!

OH yeah!

IF YOU THROW IT, YOU CAN BREAK IT SAFELY AND EASILY!

HIRO, YOU'RE KIND OF LIKE KYO.

And why are you smiling like you just had a great idea?

Yum...



SHE REALLY IS OVERLY CAUTIOUS ABOUT WHAT SHE'S SAYING...



A-ANY-WAY!!



Yes! He was!

very much so!

WAS THE MOUNTED POLICE OFFICER FUN?!

UM, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?



TAKE THAT!

STU--!

GONG GONG

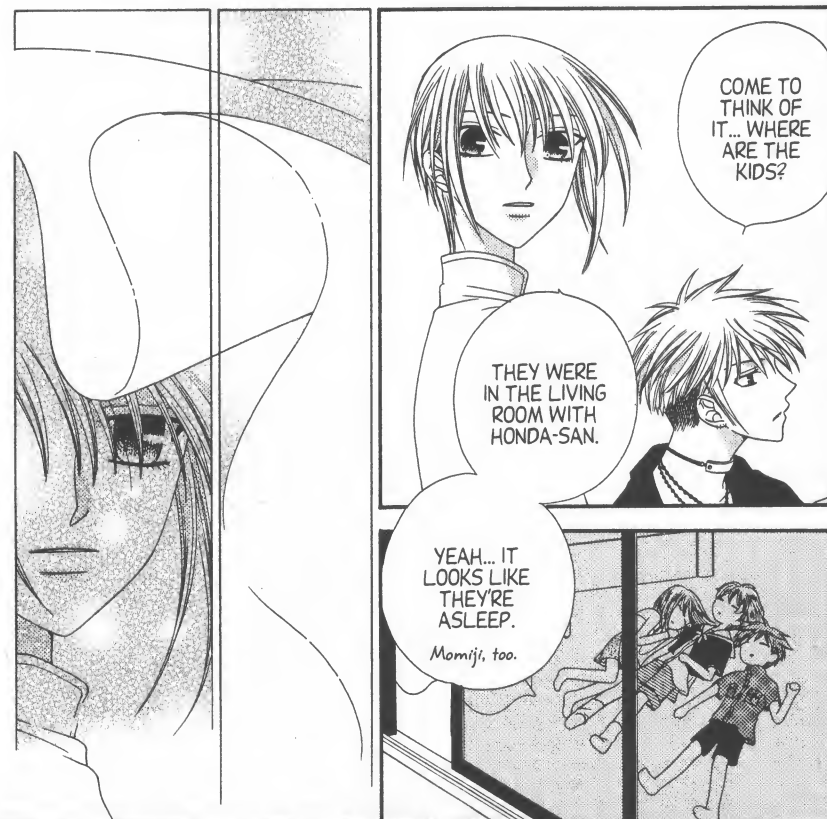
EH?!

Seriously?!

--TOHRU HONDA WILL HUMBLLY SMASH THE WATERMELON!!

IN CELEBRATION OF HIRO-SAN'S BABY--

I TOLD YOU IT'S NOT MY BABY!!





IN THE
DARK ROOM...

IN A PITCH
DARK ROOM, I
WOULD LISTEN
TO PITCH DARK
WORDS.

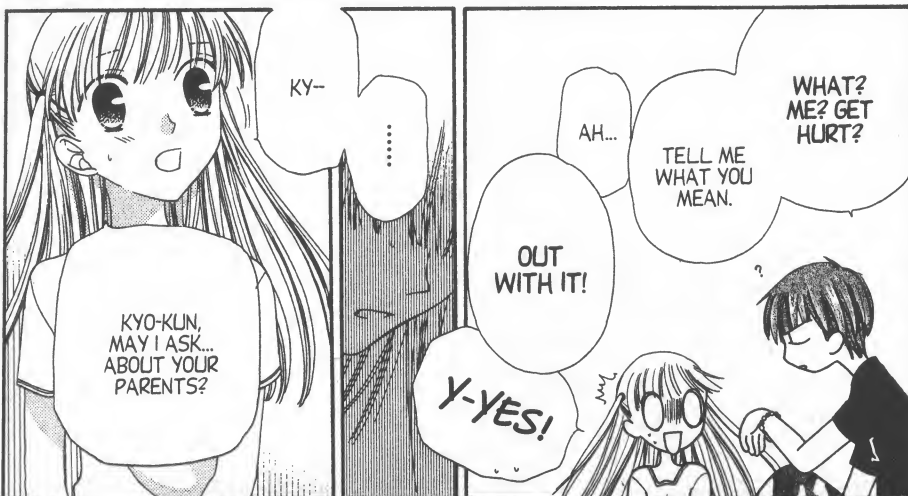
MY MOTHER
AND FATHER
WOULDN'T
COME FOR ME.

NEITHER
WOULD NII-
SAN.

EVERY
DAY...

...AKITO
WOULD COME
TO DENY
EVERYTHING.

...WHAT I
IMAGINED...





YOUR MOTHER
AND OUR
PARENTS HAVE
NOTHING TO
DO WITH EACH
OTHER.

I mean...

YOU
WORRYING
ABOUT THAT
STUFF MAKES
ME MORE
PISSED OFF.

EH?!
AH!!

SO YOU
SMASHED
WATERMELONS
WITH YOUR
MOM, HUH?



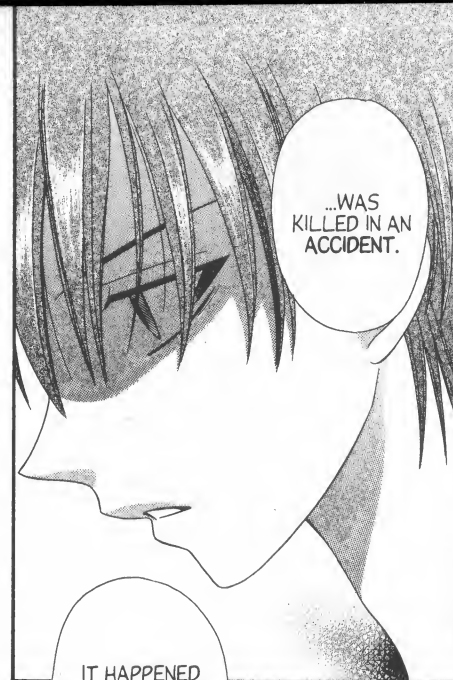
I... I KEPT
MISSING.

MOM
BROKE A
FLOWERPOT.

IN FRONT
OF OUR
APARTMENT...
JUST THE
TWO OF US.

U...M...
WELL...

YES, WHEN
I WAS...VERY
SMALL.



...WAS
KILLED IN AN
ACCIDENT.

IT HAPPENED
A LONG TIME
AGO...WHEN
I WAS FOUR
OR FIVE.



HUH? OH.
I THOUGHT
WE ALREADY
TALKED
ABOUT IT.

MY REAL
FATHER AND
I ARE CUT OFF
FROM EACH
OTHER. I HAVEN'T
SEEN HIM IN
YEARS.

MY
MOTHER
WAS
KILLED
BY--



KILLED:



OH, I
GET IT.

I THINK
I UNDER-
STAND...IT'S
STUPID.

Yeah, yeah.

EH...?

WHAT
ARE YOU
WORRYING
FOR NOW?



AH...

AHHH
....





...I'LL
SLIT YOU
OPEN.

Your belly.

EHH? WHAT-
EVER ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT? I
HAVE NO IDEA,
WHATSOEVER!

AND WHAT
YOU PULLED
WITH SHIRAKI!...
IF YOU DON'T
REIN IN YOUR
MISCHIEF...



WOW!
HAA-SAN!

I DIDN'T
THINK YOU'D
COME!



...DID
YOU-
KNOW-
WHO
COME?

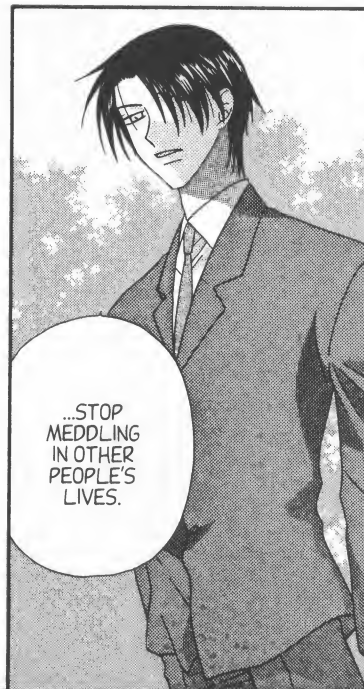
SHUT IT.
PUTTING
UNNECESSARY
IDEAS INTO
AKITO'S HEAD...



I'M NOT
THE ONLY
ONE HE
BROUGHT.

THAT'S
WHY I'M
HERE.

OH, OF
COURSE
HE WOULD
BRING HIS
PET HAA-
SAN.



...STOP
MEDDLING
IN OTHER
PEOPLE'S
LIVES.



YOU
NEED
TO...



Chapter 59



...THAT
THERE
REALLY
IS MORE
TO LIFE
THAN
DARK-
NESS

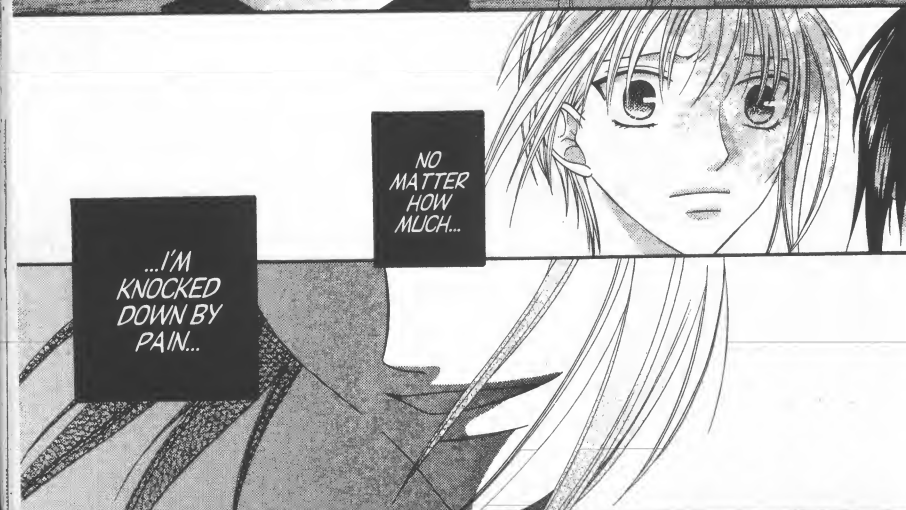
...I WANT
TO BELIEVE
THAT MY
HOPES
AREN'T FOR
NOTHING.

I WANT TO
BELIEVE...



...I KNOW
THE SUN
WILL
COME UP
AGAIN.

JUST LIKE
EVEN IF I'M
PELTED
WITH RAIN...



...I'M
KNOCKED
DOWN BY
PAIN...

NO
MATTER
HOW
MUCH...



HELLO
THERE,
YUKI.

SUCH A
LONELY BOY.

IN ORDER
TO FIGHT
ON...

ARE YOU
ALONE... AS
USUAL?



YUP.
HE JUST
ARRIVED.

Mm...

IS AKITO
STAYING
HERE?

AKITO-
SAN...

...IS
HERE...?

*Hanare: a detached room, like a guest house.



...SHOULD
WE CHANGE
CLOTHES?

YOU'RE
FINE
LIKE
THAT.

Ha ha!
OF COURSE
NOT. HE'S
STAYING
IN THE
HANARE*.

STILL, WE
HAVE TO GO
SAY HELLO.



ALWAYS...

...KINDNESS
HAS
CONTINUED
TO FALL
DOWN ON ME.
EVER SINCE
THAT DAY.



NO, OF COURSE NOT! I'M ALL RIGHT, SO... YES...

I'M SORRY. PLEASE DON'T BE OFFENDED...

Eh?!



Phew...



NOPE.

TODAY IT'S JUST THE RELATIVES.

WE'LL HOLD OFF ON TOHRU-KUN FOR A WHILE.



EVEN AT A TIME LIKE THIS...

...EVERYONE BUT KYO-KUN, THE CAT...

AH...

I DON'T THINK WE'LL BE OUT TOO LATE.

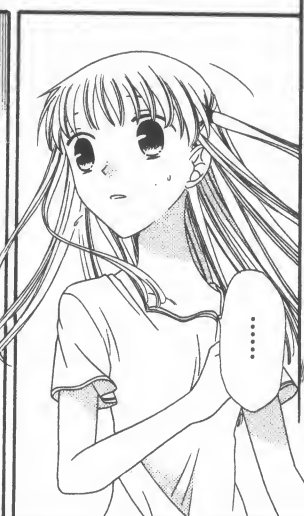
YOU AND KYO-KUN CAN TAKE CARE OF THINGS WHILE WE'RE AWAY.



YUKI-KUN...

WHAT ABOUT YUKI-KUN?

By the way... WHERE'S YUKI-KUN?



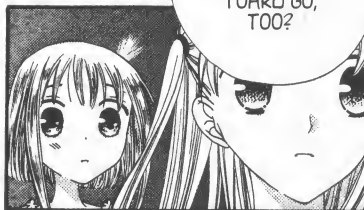
AKITO-SAN...

I ONLY MET HIM ONCE, IN APRIL.

Gasp!



DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE TOHRU GO, TOO?



Clack

TAKING A WALK.

OH MY... I SEE. WELL, YUKI-KUN CAN GO LATER.

HEY.



AS IF
EVERYONE'S
MOOD

HAD
GROWN
HEAVY

HE ENJOYS
SNEERING AT
PEOPLE.

HE'S
ALWAYS
BEEN LIKE
THAT.

AKITO
HAS.

I BET HE CAME
HERE JUST TO
THROW COLD
WATER ON
EVERYTHING.

...IN
EVERYONE'S
HEARTS.

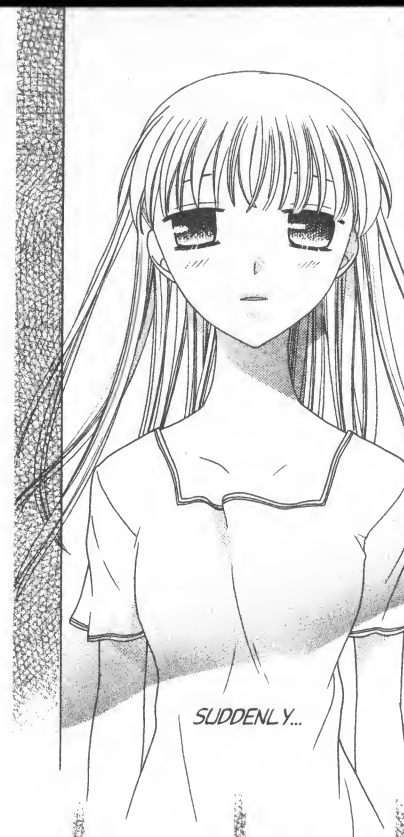
AKITO-SAN
REALLY
DOES...

...WEIGH
HEAVILY...



...AND TO
YUKI-KUN...

ESPECIALLY
FOR KYO-KUN...



SUDDENLY...

...IT FELT
AS IF THE
FIRE HAD
GONE OUT.



HEY...

I'M TELLING
YOU NOW,
I DON'T
WANT YOU
TO WORRY
ABOUT IT.

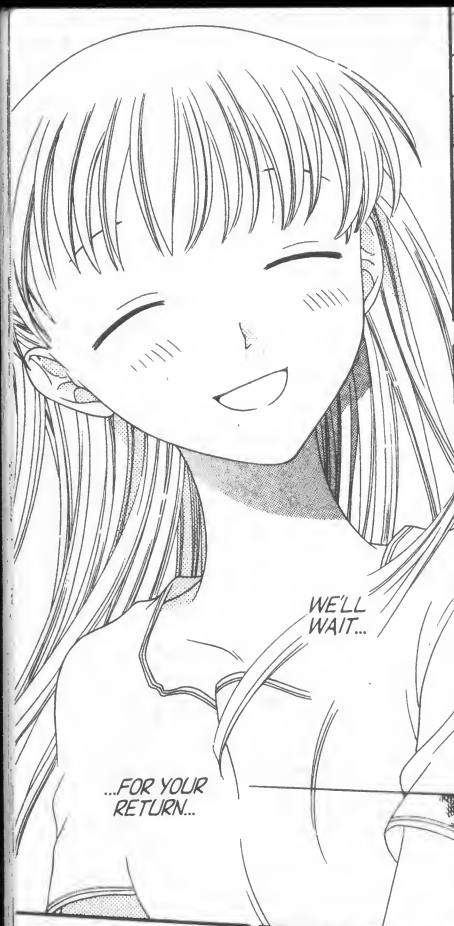
"THE CAT"
IS NEVER
INVITED.



JUST GET
ON WITH IT.

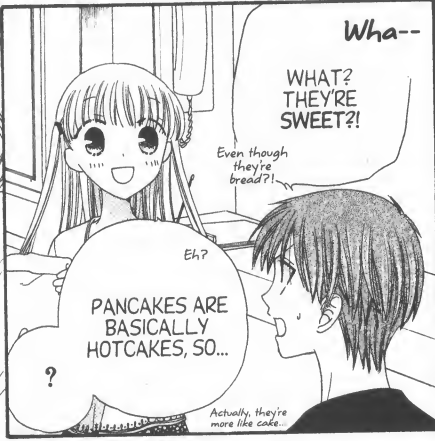
WELL,
WE'RE OFF.

WE'RE
OFF...



THEY'RE SWEET, IS THAT ALL RIGHT?

NO, I'VE NEVER HAD THEM, SO I WANT TO TRY THEM.



Wha--

WHAT? THEY'RE SWEET?!

Even though they're bread?!

Eh?

PANCAKES ARE BASICALLY HOTCAKES, SO...

?

Actually, they're more like cake.

WE'LL WAIT...

...FOR YOUR RETURN...



...DID HE COME HERE ALL OF A SUDDEN...? AKITO-SAN.



...EVERYONE

KISA...

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YES...

BUT WHY...



I DON'T REALLY GET IT, BUT CALM DOWN...

I HAVE TO BE CHEERFUL AND LIVELY! RIGHT?!

IT'S NO REASON FOR ME TO GET DEPRESSED, RIGHT?! I CAN'T GET DEPRESSED!!



I KNOW! LET'S MAKE SOMETHING!!

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO EAT, KYO-KUN?!

WHEN EVERYONE GETS BACK, THEY MIGHT BE HUNGRY!



YOU LIKE PANCAKES, KYO-KUN?!

AH! THAT'S A WONDERFUL IDEA!

...PANCAKES.



YUKI-KUN...

...R...

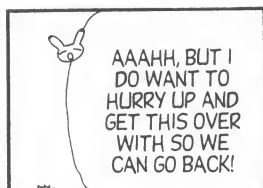


ROAR?!

Makoto-kun of the
Takei-san family



I think he's probably
a capable man...
(If he wasn't,
how would he
have become ASB
president?). He's a
young master from
extremely good
lineage. How's that
for vague? He
likes pretty things,
so his bedroom etc.
are arranged very
aesthetically, but
with such high
tension. I wonder
if he eats break-
fast? Takei will soon
be graduating from
high school, too.



AAAHH, BUT I
DO WANT TO
HURRY UP AND
GET THIS OVER
WITH SO WE
CAN GO BACK!



THAT
REALLY IS
TOO EARLY.



Nya
ha ha!

YEAH...



.....



WORRY
ABOUT
YOURSELF.

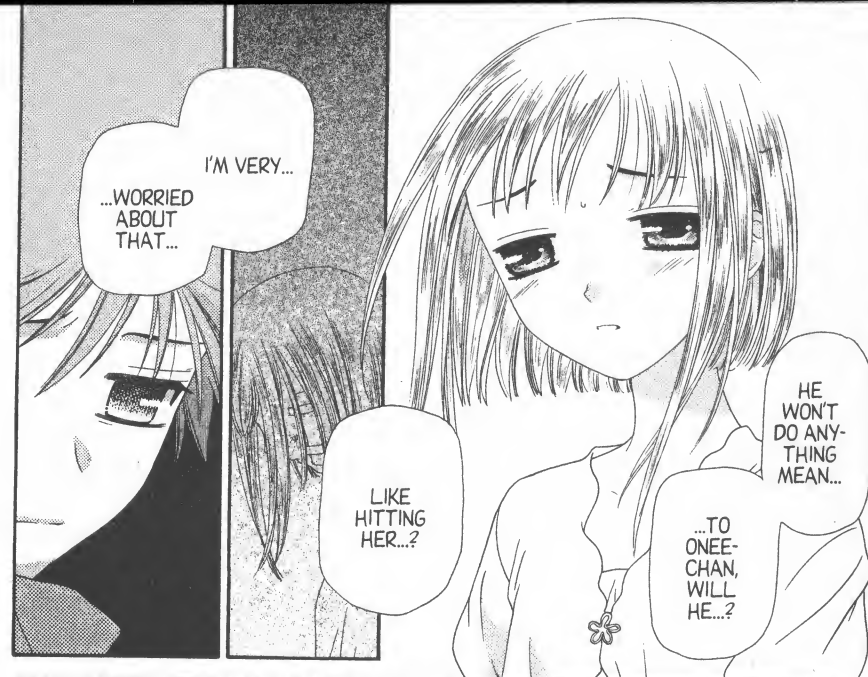
AKITO
DOESN'T
LIKE YOU!

I'M FINE!
I'M USED
TO IT!



BUT I DO...

...WANT TO
GO BACK
SOON.



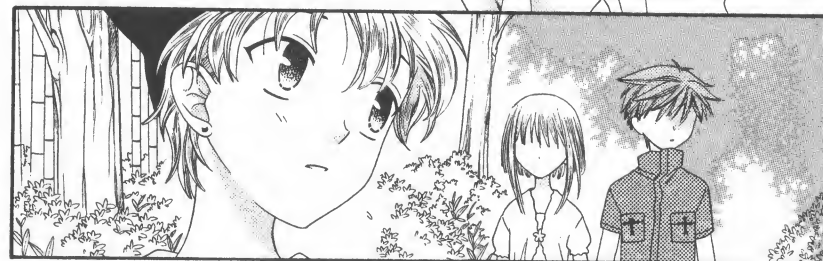
...WORRIED
ABOUT
THAT...

I'M VERY...

LIKE
HITTING
HER...?

HE
WON'T
DO ANY-
THING
MEAN...

...TO
ONEE-
CHAN,
WILL
HE...?



I WONDER IF
YUKI WILL BE
ALL RIGHT
WITH SEEING
HIM?

EVERY-
ONE'S SO
DEPRESSED
...

HE DID COME
WITHOUT ANY
WARNING.

Akito did.



AA! NERVOUS?
NERVOUS...

DID REN-
SAN MAKE
A PASS
AT HIM OR
SOME-
THING?

HOW LONG
ARE YOU TWO
GOING TO BE
WHISPERING?

I THOUGHT I
TOLD YOU THAT
WHEN YOU
ARRIVE, YOU
ARE TO COME
STRAIGHT TO
ME! ALWAYS!

DON'T
SAY THAT
WHICH IS
FORBIDDEN.

SHIGURE!



YOU'RE LATE.
IDIOTS SHOULD
DO WHAT
IDIOTS CAN TO
BE QUICKER.



OH,
HELLO,
AKITO-
SAN.

I BROUGHT
EVERYONE
TO BID YOU
WELCOME.



WHERE'S
HONDA-
KUN?

FOR NOW, I'M
HAVING HER
TAKE CARE OF
THINGS WHILE
WE'RE GONE.

*Everyone came in
through the front.*

IS AKITO-
SAN INSIDE?

**Juuishi = The members of the Zodiac*



BUT IT
REALLY IS
BIZARRE THAT
HE BROUGHT
KURENO-KUN.

UNTIL NOW,
HE WOULDN'T
EVEN LET US
JUUNISHI* SEE
HIM MUCH.

HE JUST GOT
BACK FROM
GOING OUT
WITH KURENO.

...THE
HEAT'S PUT
HIM IN A
BAD MOOD.

MAYBE AKITO
JUST GETS
NERVOUS
WITHOUT HIM
NEARBY.

AH!
I SEE.



HAA-
SAAAN!

WE'RE
HERE!



...SO I LET
HIM TALK
TO ME.

HE WAS OUT
WALKING ALL
BY HIMSELF...



OF COURSE.
I'M ALWAYS
THINKING
OF YUKI.

I GENTLY
ADMON-
ISHED
HIM...

WELL,
WELL...
THAT WAS
VERY KIND
OF YOU.



...NOT TO FILL
HIS HEAD
WITH SILLY
IDEAS.

...AND
TOLD HIM...



HE'S PROBABLY
OFF CRYING
SOMEWHERE
ABOUT NOW.

THAT'S
SO LIKE
YUKI.

HE LOOKED
LIKE HE HAD
RECEIVED A
TREMENDOUS
SHOCK.



KURENO!
LEAVE.

NEVER
MIND.

YOU'RE
COMPLETELY
RIGHT.

I APOLOGIZE.

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
SEE ANYONE.



WHY? IT'S NOT
NECESSARY.

MORE
IMPORTANTLY
...

AKITO...

WHY
DON'T YOU
LET KURENO
SEE EVERYONE
ONCE IN A
WHILE?

...I MET
WITH YUKI
EARLIER.



Um...

...ARE YOU MAD?

SHIGURE.

DON'T GO HOME WITHOUT ASKING ME.

OF COURSE I WON'T.

THE SILENCE IS SCARING ME.

...



AT A TIME LIKE THIS, HATORI IS SUPPOSED TO GIVE ME A STERN LECTURE!!

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

I WON'T.

SHAKE SHAKE

OUCH! THAT'S DIRTY!

YOU KNOW THAT IT HURTS THE MOST WHEN YOU TAKE THAT ATTITUDE!

...NO.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO, SHIGURE...

...BUT IF THERE'S A CHANCE IT WILL CHANGE THINGS, ANY METHOD IS PREFERABLE TO DOING NOTHING... LIKE ME.



HE SHOULD JUST COME BACK TO ME.

HE SHOULD BE SO LUCKY THAT I GIVE HIM SO MUCH ATTENTION.

A BORING GUY LIKE HIM!!

snigger

AKITO...



HEH ...

HEH HEH!

AH HA HA! HE REALLY IS...

...AN IDIOT!!



YES...

YOU'RE RIGHT. I'LL GO.

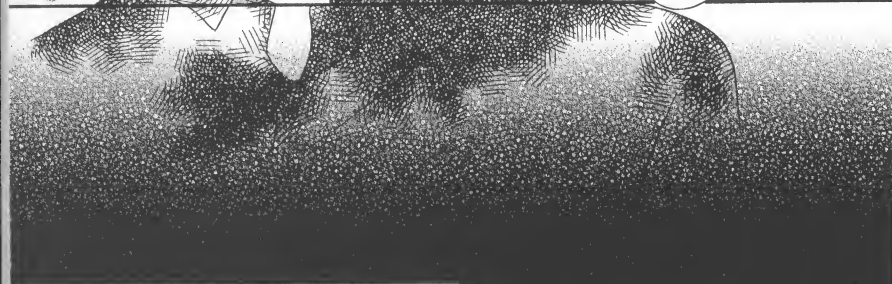
THAT IS INDEED THE CASE.

BUT WHY DON'T WE GO SEE EVERYONE NOW?



I...

...LOVE
YOU
ALL.



THE
SUN'S
SETTING
...



I'M ONLY
STATING
FACTS.

ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT
MERITS? OR
FAULTS?

YOU'RE
JUST TOO
KIND, HAA-
SAN.

AND I'M JUST
CONNIVING
AND NOT NICE
AT ALL.
RIGHT?



...ISN'T THE
CLOSED UP
LITTLE BOY
THAT HE USED
TO BE.

AND YUKI...



NOW
THEN...

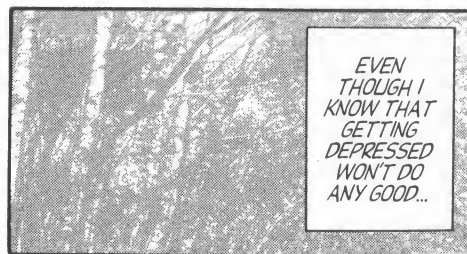
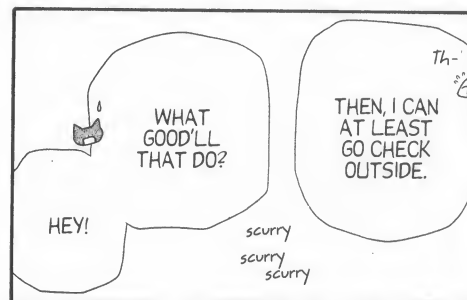
...THE FOOL
WHO IS MAKING
THE BIGGEST
MISUNDER-
STANDING...

...IS WHO?



WELCOME.

THANK YOU
FOR COMING.
I'M SO HAPPY.





IT'S DARK, SO
BE CAREFUL
WHERE YOU
STEP.

HAS HE...

...NOT SEEN
AKITO-SAN?

AH...

I WONDER
IF I SHOULD
TELL HIM
NOW...

YES...

...THAT
AKITO-
SAN IS
HERE.

YUKI-
KU--

YUKI-KUN,
A SHOOTING
STAR...

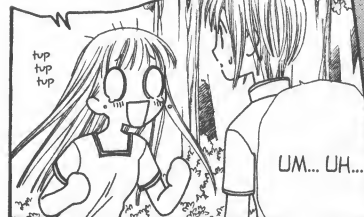
tug



YUKI-KU-!
THANK
GOODNESS!
I WAS ABLE
TO SEE YOU!

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
THERE?

WHAT'S
WRONG?



tup
tup
tup

UM... UH...

I WAS
WALKING
AROUND
THINKING ABOUT
THINGS, AND
LOST TRACK
OF TIME.

SHALL
WE GO
HOME?

EH?!
AH...UM,
THAT IS...

OH! ARE
YOU LOST?

YUKI-KUN,
WHY...ARE
YOU OUT
HERE?

Heh,
heh!

ME? I WAS
TAKING A
WALK.





YOU DON'T
KNOW, DO
YOU?

...YOUR
KINDNESS...

...YOUR
WARMTH,
YOUR
HAPPINESS
...

IT WAS
ALWAYS
ME WHO
WAS BEING
SAVED.

...SPARING
NOTHING.

...YOU
ALWAYS
SHARED...



...YOU MADE ME
A NECESSITY.

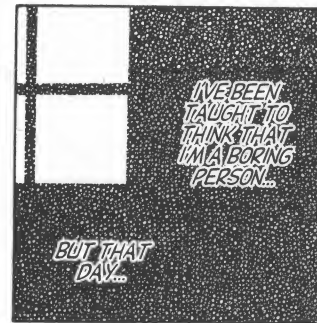
YOU CAN'T
UNDER-
STAND...

...HOW
INCREDIBLY
HAPPY THAT
MADE ME.



I WAS
VERY
HAPPY...

...TO BE
ABLE TO
SAVE YOU
WHEN
YOU WERE
LOST.



I'VE BEEN
TAUGHT TO
THINK THAT
I'M A BORING
PERSON...

BUT THAT
DAY...



...AT
THAT
TIME...

...FOR
JUST THAT
MOMENT...

...FOR NOT
FORGETTING...



...THE MEMORY
OF A DAY LONG,
LONG AGO.



THANK
YOU FOR
ALWAYS...

...LISTENING
TO ME.



THANK
YOU FOR
ALWAYS
ACCEPTING...

...MY
WEAKNESS.



THANK
YOU...

...YOU ARE LIKE
THAT SKY.

BECAUSE...

BECAUSE I
FEEL IT SO
MUCH THAT
IT BREAKS
MY HEART...

BUT...

BUT
WHY...

I'LL KEEP
GOING...

...FOR-
WARD.

I CAN GO ON
BELIEVING.

WHY DO
YOU...

...SEEM SO
SAD?

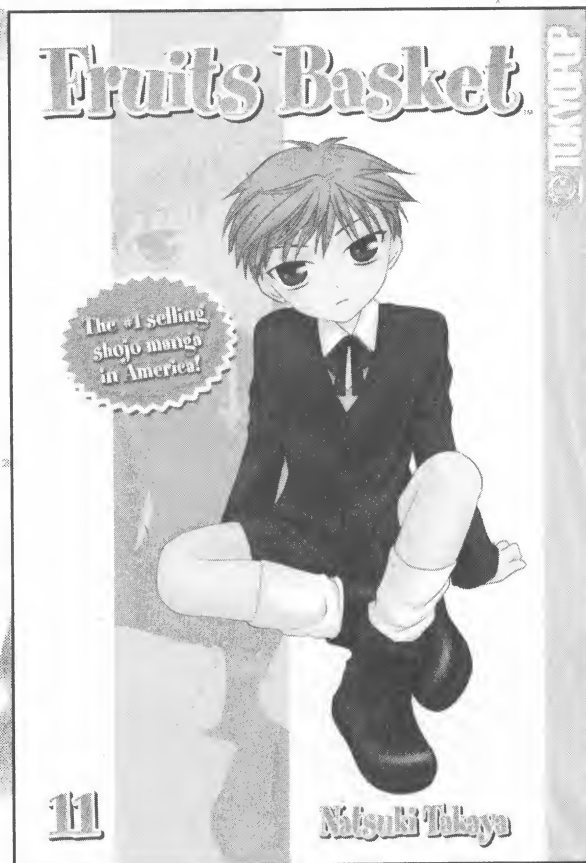
I'M SURE
OF IT.

YOU
CONTINUE
TO SHOWER
ME WITH
THEM.

THAT'S
WHY...

...I WON'T
LOSE.

Next time in...



Secrets Under Summer Skies...

While at the Sohma vacation home, Tohru is caught in a whirlwind of familial strife. Can she relax and put the “fun” in dysfunctional? None of the Sohmas are going to make it easy, including an angry horse that attacks Tohru. Could this be a new member of the Zodiac? Meanwhile, in a fierce argument with Akito, Kyo reveals his true feelings for Tohru. Will Akito tell Tohru about Kyo’s secret crush? And speaking of secrets, Akito makes a major announcement—one that will reveal his true identity and change the Sohma family forever!

Fruits Basket Volume 11
Available August 2005

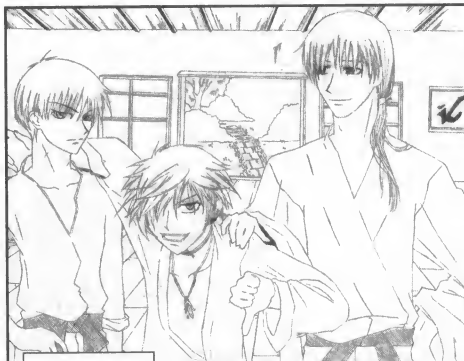
I LOVE
YOU.



To Be Continued in Volume 11...

Fans Basket

Hello, loyal fans! As usual, here's a beautiful batch of fan art! Your drawings always manage to cheer me up on a bad day. So, unless you want me to get really grumpy (Haru style), keep sending them in!
-Paul Morrissey, Editor



Vax Liu
Age 15
Lockport, NY

Here we have some of the boys at the dojo. No doubt a fight is about to break out. Unlike Haru, I give this sketch a thumbs up!



Maya Garcia
Age 14
Santa Monica, CA

This is adorable, Maya. It's always great to get fan art of Kisa. It seems like everyone draws Tohru.



Chi
Age 11
Spokane, WA

Chi is another young reader of *Fruits Basket*. I love the use of gray "tones" in this sketch. They almost look like watercolors. And I can't believe Chi's only 11!

Year of the Tiger: Hear Me Roar



Tiger

Years: 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010, 2022, 2034

Qualities: Courageous, Loving, Dynamic, Sincere

Grievances: Aggressive, Emotional, Unpredictable

Suitable Jobs: Manager, Explorer, Racecar Driver, Independent Film Director

Compatible With: Horse, Dog, Dragon

Must Avoid: Monkey

Ruling Hours: 3 AM to 5 AM

Season: Spring

Ruling Month: February

Sign Direction: East-Northeast

Fixed Element: Wood

Corresponding Western Sign: Aquarius

A hard rope to walk, but should they manage, they will be quite successful in their lives. Through it all, though, Tigers enjoy leading carefree lives full of unexpected twists and turns that propel them further into the unknown--something they love every minute of.

A woman born in this year will be highly attractive and capable of expressing herself quite easily. She will have a lively personality and be easy going. She will spend a considerable amount of time in the mornings dressing to impress and her closet will reflect this by being packed full of the latest fashions. Tigers love being the life of a party and are great company to have. Though for them, being ignored is like a sin.

Celebrity Dragons:

Tom Cruise
Bridget Fonda
Jodie Foster
Alyson Hannigan
Steve Irwin
Jon Bon Jovi
Lindsay Lohan
Demi Moore
Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen
Tigger (Winnie The Pooh)

While the thought of having a Tiger chasing after them may have been encouragement enough for the Ox to come out ahead of the Tiger, a lesser-known variation of the Zodiac tales has the animals all trying to convince their peers why they deserved the coveted top spot. When asked, the Tiger proclaimed, "I am strong and powerful!"

For anyone born under the Tiger's banner, they are blessed with an aggressive nature coupled with the ability to share great love. Playful by nature, Tigers can't stand staying still for too long and are always active. Like many of the animals, Tigers are can be short-tempered and selfish, yet they are risk takers to the core. They love questioning authority, but have poor judgment.

While enthusiastic about where their lives are leading, Tigers are balls of contradictions as they are constantly struggling to ensure that they are neither rash with their decisions nor too hesitant.

* Note: It is important to know what day Chinese New Year's was held on as that changes what Zodiac animal you are. Example: 1989 actually began on February 6 and anyone born before that date is actually an Ox.